US, Europe allot $1 trillion to ease credit crunch

LONDON/NEW YORK—ROLLING OUT powerful new weapons against the financial meltdown, the United States and Europe are set to spend more than $1 trillion in fresh cash to battle a credit crunch and save the global economy from slipping into deep recession.

The US Federal Reserve pledged $800 billion on Tuesday to blast through blockades on credit cards, auto loans, mortgages and other borrowing. This

US/EUROPE A1

METRO / A21

Co-ed jumps off moving taxi to escape from angry cabbie

SPORTS / A25

Trainer Roach wants Hatton next for Manny

ACROSS / A15

Lawyers raise alarm on rising number of Koreans' dummy firms

NEWS / A2

The coast is clear: GMA arrives Friday from Colombia via LA

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, November 27, 2008 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 353 P18 online www.inquirer.net

JDV conducts talks with hostile FVR rivals

(Editor's Note: Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr. talks about Fidel Ramos' secret meetings with his rivals in the 1992 presidential election in his biography, "Global Filipino: The Authorized Biography of Jose de Venecia Jr., the Visionary Five-Time Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines." Ramos and Jr. Venecia

JDV, A6

POSTMORTEM Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and his son and namesake, Jose de Venecia III, who led the group that filed the impeachment charges against President Arroyo but which died on arrival at the committee level. It's still a numbers game. Not quite out of the shadows, what's next for father and son?

Impeachment bid killed

'GMA allies played blind, deaf and mute'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Lolit B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has eluded yet again another attempt to unseat her, thanks to what opposition said were allies who played "blind, deaf and mute."

After only three days of hearings, the House committee on justice voted 42-8 to declare the fourth impeachment complaint in three years against Ms Arroyo insufficient in substance.

The committee decision will be taken up on the floor on Tuesday by the entire House membership dominated by Ms Arroyo's allies that is anticipated to affirm the ruling.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño explained that lack of evidence was not the reason for the complaint's rejection as decreed by the majority.

"We presented a lot of facts, the problem is the majority are just playing blind (for refusing to read the charges), deaf (for refusing to listen to the minority's arguments) and mute (for refusing to engage in a debate lest the proceedings take longer) to our complaint," Casiño said.

He pointed out that at the committee level of the impeachment process,

IMPEACHMENT, A4

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAMERS. the eight congressmen who endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by Jose de Venecia III et al., huddle before the voting on its sufficiency of substance. They are from left Representatives De Venecia, Darlene Antonino (back to camera) Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño, Teofisto Guingona III, Rita Horedenos-Baraquel and Rufus Rodriguez. Not in photo is Rep. Rosalie Zamora. Beside De Venecia are lawyers Neri Colmenares (in "barong") and Raul Lambino.

Grand plan alive, warns opposition

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

MINUTES BEFORE THE IMPEACHment case was killed, Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III asked the members of the House committee on justice if they wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo to be President for life.

Guingona claimed that the dismissal of the impeachment case was just the first step in the administration's grand plan for Charter change, whose "ultimate goal," he said, was to perpetuate the President in power.

"Let us not fool around the bush. We all know that Gloria Arroyo has a group of allies in Malacañang plotting a declaration of martial law," Guingo

GRAND, A6

Palace celebrates with 'boodle fight'

By Inquirer staff

MALACAÑANG OFFICIALS CELEBRATed with a "boodle fight" the latest triumph in the impeachment battle in Congress.

Opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo licked their wounds and vowed to try again. The head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) lamented that Ms Arroyo's allies have again "blocked the truth."

"It is a welcome development," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said after the House justice committee voted to junk the fourth impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo since 2005.

As news about the dismissal filtered in, Cabinet officials led by Ermita heartily engaged reporters in a "boodle fight"—a military style of eating with bare hands food placed on a long table covered with banana leaves—at the New Executive Building.

Ermita, along with Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde, Secretary to the Cabinet Silvestre Bello III and deputy presidential spokesperson Anthony Golez, and the reporters feasted on roasted chicken, deep fried fish fillets, omelets and eggplant salad.

"Let's gently people (who) discourage talks on People Power," said Ermita, a former general.

"What's important is we've allowed the system to work properly on exist-

PALACE, A4

SC seen as next battleground in fight vs Cha-cha

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Miko Morales

WITH ANOTHER IMPEACHMENT complaint headed for the archives, the Supreme Court looms as the next battleground in the fight against constitutional amendments intended to extend the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

SC SEEN, A4

Nene senses stirrings in post-Senate coup

By Christine O. Avendaño

UNEASY RESTS THE HEAD THAT WEARS the crown in the Senate as some senators are not happy with the new committee assignments.

A number of senators, who are "not all opposition" in the 14-member majority,

NENE SENSES, A6

Unioil cuts gas price by ₱6/liter, diesel by ₱4/liter; Big 3 mum

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Inquirer Southern Luzon

UNIOIL PETROLEUM PHILIPPINES Inc. yesterday slashed prices of gasoline by ₱6 a liter and of diesel by ₱4 a liter as it trailed other oil firms to prevsus rounds of price cuts.

Unioil said that as of 2 p.m. yesterday, its suggested retail price for diesel was ₱34.97 per liter; unleaded gasoline, ₱38.46; and premium gasoline, ₱38.98.

The Big 3 (Petron, Shell and Chevron) and other oil firms that have moved pump rates in sync in previous rounds are mum about changing their current prices.

The last time most of the oil companies cut prices was on Saturday. They reduced prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by ₱1 per liter.

The cuts brought pump rates in Metro Manila of unleaded gasoline to between ₱36.07 and ₱41.51 a liter, diesel to between ₱34.97 and ₱36.17 a liter, and kerosene to between ₱41.00

UNIOIL, A2

Step down, hold snap polls, Thai Army chief tells gov't

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S ARMY CHIEF told the elected government of Premier Somchai Wongsawat on Wednesday to step down and call a snap election as a way out of a deepening political crisis. But a government spokesperson rejected the call.

Army chief Anupong Paochinda reiterated that he would not launch a coup only two years after the military's removal of Thaksin Shinawatra as prime minister.

At a news conference in Bangkok, he also told the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest movement to withdraw from Bangkok's international airport and cease its campaign against the Somchai government.

"The prime minister should dissolve parliament and call a snap election," Anupong said in outlining a four-point plan to end the country's long-running political crisis.

Government spokesperson Nattawut Saikuar rejected the Army chief's plea. "The prime minister has

STEP DOWN, A6

SLEEPING IT OFF A tourist makes himself comfortable at Bangkok's international airport which was temporarily closed at 9 p.m. Tuesday shortly before demonstrators armed with metal rods broke through police lines and inundated the passenger terminal.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Lucena City	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Naga	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Legaspi	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Metro Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Kalibo	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

EZ2 SUERTRES

4 3 19 1 — 4 8 6

6 7 9

FOUR DIGIT

3 6 9 4 — 6 1 3

MEGALOTTO 6/45

14 15 16 26 29 36

P60,610,541.40

THE COAST IS CLEAR

Scot-free, GMA heads for home

By Michael Lim Ubac

LOS ANGELES VIA PLDT—WITH the latest impeachment complaint against her now as good as dead, President Macapagal-Arroyo returns to the country today from a weeklong visit to the two South American nations of Peru and Colombia.

At press time, the chartered Philippine Airlines plane carrying President Arroyo and some Cabinet members had already left Cartagena, Colombia, which she visited following the two-day leaders' summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Lima, Peru.

Before embarking on the long plane ride to Manila, Ms Arroyo was to make a brief stopover here to meet with executives of Ingram Micro, the world's largest technology distributor and leading technology marketing and logistics company, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

The President and a small delegation composed of Press Secretary Jesse Dennis, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo and five congressmen left Lima for Cartagena on Nov. 24 after attending a Mass at a chapel of the Sta. Rosa de Lima Shrine.

No press

Members of the press delegation that covered the Apec summit were not invited to cover the Colombia visit. No reason was given for excluding the media delegation. Calls to Garnace's mobile phone were unanswered.

A press statement issued by Malacañang said the President met with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe during the one-day visit from Nov 24 to 25.

The two heads of state had a "casual discussion that lasted one and a half hours" at the historic walled city of Cartagena, a world heritage site and popular tourist destination, the press statement said.

According to Malacañang, the "conversation started with light banter," with Ms Arroyo saying that the two best known women of Colombia had married Filipinos. She was referring to Stella Marquez-Antonio, a former Miss International, who is married to industrialist Jorge Antonio, and Lizzie Zobel, the wife of Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, chair and CEO of Ayala Corp.

Swapping tips

"Unlike Lord Mr Arroyo exchanged governance tips amid humor and both found to their surprise that their countries, although worlds apart, have many similarities and strengths, and share common challenges and solutions," the statement said.

When Mr Arroyo asked Uribe what he was doing about the global financial crisis, the latter said his government was extending direct help to the poor with conditional cash transfers, subsidies through school and medical aid, investing in new and food sufficiency and taking care of the poor and vulnerable through a "fiscal stimulus," and also addressing the problem of insurgency.

Good practices

"We are doing exactly the same thing back home. In fact, we adopted the good practices of South America to deal with our present-day challenges," Ms Arroyo said.

The two also exchanged views on investments incentives like economic zones and tax holidays.

Zobel and his wife, who comes from a family of sugar producers in Colombia, stayed host to the President after the meeting.

The President's party was billeted in a century-old monastery converted into a quaint hotel within the walled part of Cartagena which resembles Intramuros in Manila. The monastery was built years ago to protect against marauding pirates.

The presidential plane was set to leave for Manila from Los Angeles at 5 p.m. on Nov 26 (early Thursday in Manila), arriving in Manila at 9:30 p.m. tomorrow, Nov 28.

Ombudsman denies foot-dragging Nani case

By Alcuin Papa

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN has denied that its alleged foot-dragging on the case of former justice secretary Hernando Perez led to the dismissal of the corruption case by the Sandiganbayan.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said the Ombudsman's office believes it had a strong case against Perez and would file a motion for reconsideration.

"We believe the case we filed was strong and we do not see any dereliction in our proceedings," Jalandoni told a press briefing yesterday.

"We respect the decision of the Sandiganbayan but we will explore our side. Hopefully, our appeal will be granted," Jalandoni said.

The Sandiganbayan 2nd Division, in a ruling dated Nov. 20, dismissed the $2 million extortion and robbery charges against Perez, citing, among other reasons, the six-year delay of the case at the Ombudsman's Office that it said had violated the rights of the accused.

Not normal practice

Assistant Ombudsman Jose de Jesus yesterday said the Sandiganbayan should have considered the time it took to conduct a separate fact-finding investigation and preliminary investigation of the Perez case.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who had no hand in the prosecution of the case, reported its dismissal and said the Ombudsman should share the blame for the loss.

"That case did not pass through my office and was filed directly with the Sandiganbayan. That is not normal practice," Villa-Ignacio said.

The case is one of four stemming from a complaint filed in 2002 against Perez by businessman Mark Jimenez who claimed that Perez had extorted money from him in exchange for not being compelled to submit affidavits against deposed President Joseph Estrada, for whom Jimenez had acted as a financial adviser.

The affidavits would have been damaging to Estrada who was accused of accepting bribes in the $670-million jueteng payoff deal between the National Power Corp. and Argentine industrialist Mahaguna Procurement Standard Anonima Empresa in 1998.

No complainant

Jimenez has withdrawn his complaint but the Ombudsman last April filed four cases before the Sandiganbayan against Perez, his wife Beatriz, brother-in-law Ramon Arcos and businessman Bruno Tauler based on the Jimenez complaint.

On Nov. 13, the Sandiganbayan First Division, cleared Perez of graft charges, saying that demanding $2 million from Jimenez did not constitute a violation of the Anti-Graft Law.

Two other cases remain pending with the anti-graft court—one for falsification of public documents and another graft charge for violations of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees.

De Jesus yesterday explained why the fact-finding investigation took 24 months from the time Jimenez filed the case against Perez and the other accused in December 2002.

He said it took that long because of new requests that investigators sent to Swiss and Hong Kong banks for information on the accounts of Perez and his co-accused. The requests were sent in Nov. 2003 and answered only in 2005.

"The documents had to be secured because there has to be evidence that money changed hands. That is needed to strengthen the case," De Jesus explained.

KILL ARTHRITIS IN 5 MINUTES

"NERVE STIMULATOR"

100 FIRST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

BUY 1 TAKE 1

ON FAT-BURNING FMS

extended until Nov. 29, 2008 only*

Tired of slimming methods that don't work? With the Fat Mobilization System (FMS), you can easily, painlessly reshape your figure!

- FMS eliminates fat and increases metabolism.
- A single 35-minute session of FMS can already burn up to 2,000 calories.
- No pills, surgery or crazy diets!

Call Marie France today for your FREE consultation on FMS. Don't miss this exciting promo!

Call 894-BODY (2639)

www.mariefrance.com.ph

marie france

PASAY · ORTIGAS · TOMAS MORATO · BINONDO · ALABANG · BF HOMES · CONGRESSIONAL · MARIKINA · TEL. NO. 2[illegible] · CEBU · TEL. 233-1[illegible]

Women all over are all praises for the benefits of this non-surgical miracle in weight and inch-loss! Find out what some of them have to say about FMS.

"Thanks to FMS I got my figure back, and it's even better than it was before I got pregnant! It really helped me lose weight effortlessly and quicker than I thought! FMS is so amazing that I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to see results in just 3 weeks!"
- Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

"I really like the FMS because it helped me lose my post-pregnancy weight! I was surprised that after a month, walaki na ang na-lose ko!"
- Carlene Aguilar

"People think I've always been slim, pero my metabolism slowed down when I got older. FMS helps me maintain my figure!"
- Carmi Martin

"I tried liposuction before, and when I gained weight again, the fat went to different parts of the body. It didn't look good! With FMS, the weight loss is proportioned, so it looks natural!"
- Aiko Melendez

"After only a month of doing FMS, I've already lost so much weight! And the weight loss is proportioned too. Plus it's non-surgical so there are no risks."
- Bernadette Allyson

"What I like about FMS is that it really works on losing the weight on your entire body. I used to have a groom problem, big thighs, big legs... FMS helped me lose my weight all over!"
- Lyn Ching-Pascual

"When I gained weight from my pregnancy, I didn't want to do anything invasive like surgery. And I've heard so many horror stories about diet pills! With FMS, I was able to lose the weight safely and effortlessly!"
- Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

Impeachment charges killed

From page A1

the prosecution of evidence is not required.

Casiño warned that the dismissal of the impeachment complaint largely on "a flood of legalisms" and Latin terms like res judicata would give future Presidents the go-signal to "connive with impunity" the series crimes leveled against Ms Arroyo.

"This process is political, we are not judges or justices, we are here as representatives of the people and it is our duty to give due course to any of their complaints," Casiño said.

Unlike Erap's case

He pointed out that the House had swiftly forwarded the impeachment case against former President Joseph Estrada in 2000 without lengthy debates.

Casiño also said that the majority members were probably afraid that pursuing the impeachment case would also open charges that they got fertilizer funds and the Malacañang mess gifts.

He said that was the reason the people continued to believe the House was a rubber stamp for the executive, just like the latest report that some of them were paid off in a clandestine meeting in the Manila Sales Sunday night.

"If we do not investigate the President, these doubts will continue," Casiño said.

"This is a big mistake," Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said, accusing the majority of shielding the President.

"Why? Can't the senate be fair herself? It is the public who will render its judgment here—she is guilty. That is what is going to happen," Zamora said after the hearing.

"Let us give the President her day in court and tell us—all of you are wrong and I am right."

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman accused top the earth experience of the impeachment complaint filed by 11 group led by businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, summarize out of the ousted House Speaker, after the majority voted to waive questioning the charges to differentiate the proceeding.

Lagman called the impeachment case a "compendium of ... implausibles, innuendoes and presumptions, all bereft of the requisite substance here."

He carved up the complaint's causes of action in two groups, the first composed of the "recycled" cases that were "adjudicated and dismissed" in the previous impeachment cases," the rustled $500-million NBN-ZTE deal, the "Hello Garci" tapes, the P728-million fertilizer scam, the NorthRail contract and extrajudicial killings.

The panel dismissed the firsthand account of Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr. and his photograph of the President and her husband visiting the ZTE headquarters in China on Nov. 2, 2006, as ordinary of irregularity.

"Pictures do not lie but biased viewers do. The picture is disruptive golf course simply not only depicts the personalities in the photo. It is not a criminal posture to hang there. Neither does it portray a criminal act," Lagman said.

He said that only three of the causes of action were new—the Malacañang mob gift for the boxing referee Dela Hoya and the P8-billion "Overpriced" contract for Mt. Dinahwal and the P5-billion Quezon-cup turtle train. But he said these charges were based wanting in "substantive facts" to pin down the President's culpability.

"I am perplexed why the complainants have not learned their lesson from their failures in the previous impeachment cases," Lagman said.

Tinbar there is a failure to collaborate and advocacy in the complainants' counsel to truth and consistency really make out a case for impeachment against the President."

The majority did not even bother it to consider the appeal of Analyn and Rep. Rafael Mariano for the 28 executive members who rejected Executive Audit allocations from former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Sto.ios" Botante to inhibit themselves. It would have not summarize the final score.

Unclean hands

Members were fanned by the committee chair, Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, from working the rumors of the fertilizer fund scandal.

Defensor said that this was covered by the committee's earlier decision to reject Cabinets Rep. Lito Maria's appeal for members with conflict of interest in the case—such as those who received the P500,000 cash gifts from Malacañang last year—to inhibit themselves.

"This is lamentable, they have rejected this complaint with unclean hands," Maza said.

The hearing was seen as less than two hours. Defensor said the rest of the majority blew more than enough time in the day on their lunch of taro sticks of pork barbecue, steamed vegetables and rice.

Defensor said that the committee would try to wrap up its report by today in order to forward it to the committee on rules which would schedule a plenary vote. He expected the House to plenary to reject the complaint by Tuesday.

Minority to go to SC

The elder De Venecia remained hopeful that it was not yet over for the impeachment complaint noting that it was still probable for the majority to still gather 80 votes or one-third of the House members needed to overturn the committee decision.

Aklanon Rep. Teodorico Haresco said she would go to the Supreme Court to question the committee's vote in what could be a landmark case, should it happen, the votes being nonpaid branches of government are not supposed to intervene in each other's internal affairs.

"It is absurd for the House committee to frame the process based on [Former] Supreme Court decision by the Supreme Court is now necessary to protect the rule of law," she said.

"The majority wants the impeachment process to be reduced in a numbers game. In truth, what we need is to restore the impeachment process to its rightful place—as a credible mechanism to hold the government accountable," Henteveen said.

Puno: Judiciary to decide issue on GMA term extension

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's allies in the legislature may try to extend her term, but it will ultimately be an issue for the judiciary to decide, Chief Justice Reynato Puno said yesterday.

Asked to comment on the election of Barangay Rep. Hermilando Mandanas seeking to postpone the 2010 elections by a year and therefore extend Ms Arroyo's term up to 2011, Puno said the proposal would require Charter change.

He said this would bring the issue back to the debate on whether the Senate and the House of Representatives should vote jointly or separately in amending the Constitution.

"That is a constitutional issue that only the Supreme Court can decide," Puno told reporters. "If that issue reaches us, we will decide the issue in accordance with not only the letter but also the spirit of the Constitution."

Puno said that while previous Constitutions had specifically provided that the term duration of Congress should run separately on constitutional amendments, "the phrase does not appear anymore in the 1987 Constitution."

"So the problem is how the court will interpret this omission of the phrase 'voting separately' ... " he said.

But according to Sta Union Rep. Victor Ortega, who chairs the House committee on constitutional amendments, Mandanas' withdrawn House Resolution No. 558, as well as another resolution, on Aug. 12 to allow for smoother deliberations on the mode of amending the Charter.

"I am clarifying this matter to allay fears that the move of Rep Mandanas is timed to extend the term of President Arroyo," Ortega said in a press conference.

It was Bern Cabanayan, secretary general of the National Union of People's Lawyers, who drew attention to HR 558 while speaking at a forum yesterday during the committee's public consultation on Tuesday.

Ortega had initially denied the existence of HR 558.

He later said it had been formally accepted by his committee but had not been discussed.

Ortega said there were no more pending resolution in his committee proposing that Ms Arroyo serve beyond her six-year term.

He said HR 558 was included in the recent list of pending measures in the committee but that this was a "clerical error."

Ortega said Mandanas also withdrew HR 549 proposing a parliamentary system of government. He left pending HR 549, which proposes that lawmakers be allowed to cross over to another party.

HR 549 was inadvertently included in the list of pending resolutions instead of HR 549, Ortega said.

Asked how the House would allay suspicion of term extension, Speaker Prospero Nograles pointed out that the hearings had been open to the public.

"What else do you want the House to do when we have been very public and transparent? We have allowed the media to cover each and every step of the way. All are just speculations," he said.

At his weekly press briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said news of HR 558 had caught the Palace unaware.

Palace celebrates with 'boodle fight'; senators rue the day

From page A1

ing lines without resorting to unconstitutional means," he said.

Ms Arroyo, who is due to arrive on Friday from her trip to Brunei and Cambodia, has been informed about the House decision but Ermita said he did not know how she reacted to it.

Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Satur Ocampo said the impeachment proponents would still try to muster more support in the plenary when the justice committee transmits its report and the entire House membership votes on it.

"We will present additional arguments. We can still expand it," Ocampo said. He said the plenary would give his group the chance to inform the people about the alleged sins of the President and that this is itself constitutional treason.

No 'deliberdess'

"Our arguments no longer have a sense of deliberdess," Antidalaga Davao City said over the Church-run Radio Veritas. "Why go on because our congressmen no longer seem to use their heads," he said.

"It only shows that the President has control of the Senate and the Congress and it is apparent this year that she would also have control over the entire Supreme Court," Cruz said. Seven justices of the 15-member tribunal are retiring next year.

Antidalaga Angel Lagdameo, CBCP president, also told Radio Veritas that "the pro-Arroyo congressmen blocked the truth."

"We will continue our search for the truth. The junking of the impeachment complaint does not mean we should give up hope that we would even know the truth," he said.

'Has all the aces up'

"I'm convinced that the speed in killing the complaints would lead directly to other things like pushing for Charter change in the House," Sen. Manny Villar told reporters.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile claimed that the House would push for "Cha-cha" forever through Charter change.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the issues against Ms Arroyo did not die with the complaint. "She will go—boom, in history as the most hated leader—an economy ever had, and her administration the most corrupt and morally bankrupt," he said.

"She has all the aces up her sleeves and cash in brown paper bags ready for all takers. How sad," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

Explaining the swift move in the House, Sen. Mar Roxas said many congressmen were rushing to fly to Las Vegas to watch the Dec. 6 bout of Manny Pacquiao and Oscar de la Hoya.

"Now the ballroom is ripe for Cha-cha," said Makati Rep. Jejomar Binay, president of the United Opposition, *[With reports from TJ Burgonio, Cliff C. Gilocamppo Jr., Lolit B. Sadaoriña, Christine O. Avendaño, Donna Z. Pazzibugan and Willie Mendez]*

UP IN ARMS Among the 45 voting to junk the impeachment charges against President Arroyo at the justice committee are Representatives Mujiv Dalidaar (seventeen-foot), Edcel Lagman, Raul del Mar. At left is ex-Speaker De Venecia, looking crestfallen.

SC seen as next battleground in fight vs Charter change

From page A1

But Binay, the president of the United Opposition (UNO), pointed out that the high court's credibility would be put to the test next year with the mandatory retirement of seven justices and the President's appointment of their replacements.

"The bigger challenge is to prevent Ms Arroyo from exercising her power to appoint justices of the high tribunal for selfish, political ends," Binay said in a statement.

No. 1 attribute

According to Chief Justice Reynato Puno, "independence of the mind" is the No. 1 attribute of a justice of the Supreme Court.

Puno is the candidness to replace the justices scheduled for retirement were unlike strict scrutiny because keeping the high court independent was "very, very important."

"We are really putting their qualifications under the microscope. This is one way of ensuring that we get the best of the candidates," Puno told the Inquirer after speaking at a conference on Intellectual Property Law in Pasig City yesterday morning.

"If all the qualifications, perhaps independence of the mind is the most important," he said.

With the retirements of seven justices by 2009, Puno said he was only members not appointed by Ms Arroyo at a time when political questions, particularly Charter change (Cha-cha), are likely to be brought to the high court.

Early in 2009

Mayor Binay said advocates of Charter change in the House of Representatives "appear to be confident that a more sympathetic Supreme Court will remove legal obstacles to the lifting of term limits imposed by the Constitution" on the President.

He speculated that with the way things were going in the House, proponents of Charter change would take the issue to the high court "by the early part of 2009," when the President would have completed filling up the vacancies by then.

One of the main issues that the high court may take up is the provision on how Congress will vote to introduce amendments in the Constitution, according to Binay.

"Should Congress be allowed to vote as one, the larger House, which is dominated by Arroyo supporters, or should

VILLAR (right) comforts an ailing Esmeralda Ugral, one of the 30 OFWs who arrived yesterday.

30 abused OFWs return home, are treated to welcome party

By Cynthia D. Balana

IT WAS MORE THAN THEY EXpected.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) with documented cases of abuse from their foreign employers who returned home to their loved ones not only got free plane tickets home but a warm welcome and some gifts from their benefactor.

Sen. Minority Villar, who has been shouldering the repatriation of abused OFWs who sought his help to coming home, yesterday personally welcomed 30 workers who flew in from Abu Dhabi yesterday morning.

The OFWs were Ma. Catalina Fil, Ferlie Castillo, Rina Pinlac, Ay Socorro, Shirvor Evasco, Shary Grace Borja, Raquel Diadio, Aida Bayan, Salvacion Mobid, Mili Cayan, Glancie Tagud, Irene Tangan, Maricel Pantaleon, Maribeth Salamat, Aisha Gumacay Analyn Isnac, Leonor Bonani, Mary Ann Serrano, Maripel Dionila, Liza Pinzola, Esmeralda Ugral, Leila Velipenia, Lilibeth Vitalis, Agnes Aguilan, Nancy Ilgin, Marites Abagado, Marivic Castillo, Lyina Peralta, Sunshine Pineda and Vilma Sun.

"Your safe arrival is also the best birthday gift I got in advance," said Villar who is celebrating his 59th birthday on Dec. 13. "Getting you home and back in the arms of your families and loved ones in time for Christmas gives me a lot of fulfillment."

From the airport, Villar brought the workers and their families for lunch at the Singing Cooks and Waiters help restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. Gift packages and cash prizes were later distributed by the senator in the same restaurant.

This was part of his advocacy to help OFWs who have been providing much-needed remittances to the country to help it cope with the global financial crisis, he added.

Villar had earlier chartered the plane fares of OFWs from Jordan, Bahrain and other countries in the Middle East who returned with hardship stories to their places of employment.

SC restrains proclamation of Quezon plebiscite result

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS BARRED THE Commission on Elections from proclaiming the results of a plebiscite scheduled in Quezon next month regarding its division into two provinces.

The high court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the proclamation of the results of the Dec. 14 plebiscite pending the resolution of questions on the constitutionality of a new law creating a Quezon del Norte and Quezon del Sur.

"In the meantime, let a temporary restraining order issue, without bond, to restrain respondents particularly the (Comelec) from proclaiming the results of the plebiscite that may be held on the proposed creation of the new provinces," the Court said in an en banc resolution dated Nov. 20.

Three petitions questioning the constitutionality of the Republic Act 9495 or the act creating the provinces of Quezon del Sur and naming the seat of the provinces as Quezon del Norte.

The law's constitutionality is being questioned because it still "preterminate" the terms of office of the present elected officials of the province.

Private citizens Franmoxis Purgat and Herbert Ocreza Dator Jr. named as respondents in their suit Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the Department of Budget and Management and the Comelec.

All 3495 municipalities, subject to the result of a plebiscite, the creation of Quezon del Sur to be composed of the towns of Agdangan, Buenavista, Catanauan, General Luna, Macalelon, Mulanay, Padre Burgos, Pitogo, San Andres, San Francisco, San Narciso, Unisan, Alabat, Atimonan, Calauag, Guinyangan, Gumaca, Lopez, Perez, Plaridel, Quezon and Tagkawayan.

The seat of Quezon, according to the law, shall be known as Quezon del Norte which shall be composed of the towns of Burdeos, General Nakar, Infanta, Jomalig, Lucban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Panukulan, Dolores, Padilla, Real, Sampaloc, Candelaria, Dolores, San Antonio, Sariaya and Tiaong.

The cities of Lucena and Tayabas shall also be part of Quezon del Norte.

a 70th Birth Anniversary Special
"NINOY: ONE LIFE"
EQUILIBRIUM
Hosted by Heherson Alvarez

Grand plan alive, time line on track–opposition

From page A1

second.

"Do you want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to be President for life? If that happens, the dark days of dictatorship will come back and our people will again lose their voice," he said.

Cayetano claimed that the dismissal of the impeachment complaint yesterday and its anticipated rejection in the plenary vote on Dec. 2 were in accordance with the administration's time line.

Canvass by mid-2009

"On Wednesday, just like what you have done before, most of you will fly to Antwerp," he told the members of the justice committee. "You will party, eat delicious food and drink wine, and then watch the flight of (Philippine boxing champion Manny) Pacquiao. After all of this, you will come back here to start Charter change."

Cayetano recalled the House's failed attempts in 2008 to railroad the amendments of the 1987 Constitution by convening a constituent assembly (Con-ass) minus the Senate.

"You tried Charter change and you failed miserably," he said.

Cayetano claimed that the dismissal of the impeachment complaint yesterday and its anticipated rejection in the plenary vote on Dec. 2 were in accordance with the administration's time line.

Pangan Nacionalista Teodoro Casiño said the Con-ass mistakes in the House were "not the fault of the people" and yet, with the Supreme Court expected to rule on whether Congress should vote as a single chamber or separately in two chambers, only the second ignores.

"The goal is to lure the Con-ass by the middle of next year and have a plebiscite on the changes by November or December (2009)," Casiño told the Inquirer.

However, he said, the Con-ass move would have stronger resistance than that in 2006.

He also said he expected the proponents of an entirely new economic charter to focus less on ideology, more oriented and business group.

"They might get legal justifications, but to achieve legitimacy, the Con-ass must handle the moral and socioeconomic issues. Without these, it is doomed to fail," Casiño said.

'Impossible'

But Iloilo's President Jose Preco Euzebe declared that Charter change was "virtually dead" in his chamber.

Apparently bogged by sweltered talk of Charter change happening during his watch, Estrella said that even with the new alignment in the Senate, the senators had not changed their stance against amending the Constitution at this time.

Thus, he said, "There is no way it can be done."

Euzebe reiterated that Charter change would require the vote of 18 senators. For his cousin, he said, it was "impossible to get" that number.

Among those who still vote against Charter change are Senators Manuel Villar, Alan Peter Cayetano, Pia Cayetano, Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada, Loren Legarda, Juanito Madrigal, Rodolfo Aquino III, and Miriam Santiago, according to Euzebe.

"That's why I'm telling you, based on my assessment of the Senate, it's impossible to get 18 senators to approve a proposal to amend the Constitution," he told reporters before the start of the session.

"So, it's virtually dead in the Senate," Euzebe said, reiterating that the House could not convene into a constituent assembly without the Senate's participation.

"The House is not Congress. That's the situation," he said.

Not a priority

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri also told reporters that he would oppose any move to railroad Charter change in the absence of public consultations.

Zubiri likewise said his meeting in chair of the Senate rules committee with his House counterparts led by Majority Leader Arthur Defensor had nothing to do with amending the Constitution.

"Let me make clear that we did not talk about Charter change," he said. "Charter change is not our priority now in our remaining 55 session days."

According to Zubiri, what Congress intends to focus on before the holidays is how to address the people's needs in a time of economic crisis.

Villar said Alan Peter Cayetano urged the senators to support Charter change, reportedly now that the House had dismissed the latest impeachment complaint against Ma Arroyo.

"I believe in the integrity of Senate President Enrile," Cayetano said in the course of calling for "cooperation" and insisted that the Senate as an institution would not allow Charter change before June 30, 2010.

Enrile said that while the consensus seem free to come up with such a resolution, it was consistently because many of them were against Charter change.

JDV conducts talks with hostile FVR rivals

From page A1

reformist the Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats (Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats).

The hush was written by Senate journalist Jhoy M. Tucker a former editor and editorial page writer for the Wall Street Journal in Hong Kong who has served on the editorial board of the Washington Times.

De Venecia talked, among others, about meetings he arranged for Ramos with Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the late Speaker Ramon Mitra, and former Pres Lady Imelda Marcos.)

CEBU STARTED TO SHAKE Ramos as his electoral victory turned day after day from improbable to inconceivable. The initial shock of recognition that he had no Cabinet-to-waiting theme his campaign headquarters from a liming.

And on top of that, because no candidate could possibly receive a majority of votes with such a large number of rival candidates in the race, the winner would receive Malacañang as a cuttently president. How Ramos fared presidential months from his political fate.

Anxiety Talks I

In those white-knuckled days of waiting, de Venecia remembered a new interaction ... to get Congress to voted up its close canvassing of the COC-proclaimed results the Presidential elect before June 30. To obtain a consensus to move the board, Ramos had to results out to his rivals and invite each to a session one parley with him.

De Venecia's most target was the most emotionally supporting to victor parties: Mitra. The LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Mitra's party) was was wounded by treachery by his trusted leaders and increasingly alone it was isolated, and was now in an abysmal hole being the darkening prospect of defeat.

De Venecia was only vaguely aware of Mitra's own concerns when he approached him Ramos's breakaway with de Venecia just six months earlier had wounded Mitra deeply. Even more stinging was a timely event same days before Election Day between Cojuangco and Ramos, a one-to-one tete-a-tete between two political ally who the thought had scattered him in the back during this campaign. A rhumor of Representative Gabriel Singson, a Ramos ally, about the alleged interest of two House principal parties to raise money by electing Mitra's campaign leaders and LDP senate hollow. Amazed received the information on May 1. The next day at tea school in the morning de Venecia, who rushed to Manila from Pangasinan, Ramos, and Congressman Jaime Ongpin had a family public chief "tiff" on the House privilege perm at the Batasan (Congressional) complex in Quezon City. One inside, they uncovered the "smoking gun"—a substantial quantity of campaign materials that bore Mitra's name and photo and the LDP senatorial slate, some ready to be shipped out. Those were printing materials with clothes and cassette molded to print their propaganda materials.

Discovery of those events was heavy on de Venecia's mind as he entered for the parley his first meeting with Mitra during the hard-fought campaign period. It was clear to each night when they drank hands in the Speaker's Mabuti apartment. Mitra was looking downright lousy skinny and was reigned to a place that for years was so used to emblem planner and leader. They sat down to talk, passionated by awkward stretches of silence. At times Mitra showed unusual anger at Congressmen Hoping Lokniegay, who managed the LDP campaign but had disrupted him in Iloilo. He was unhappy with Congressmen Jose Yap, Ronnie Zamora and Mike Romero. They too, came under deep suspicion of having pushed him in their bailiwicks. Almost everybody he had trusted, it seem, had betrayed him in spite of political double-cross. That word, as though newly minted, now enshrined itself in his political vocabulary.

Mitra, dreading his true nature as a gentleman and a statesman, told de Venecia he was bowing to the inevitable and turned out to Mrs Ramos and counsel not to Mrs Ramos's candidacy. He congratulated de Venecia for being a key strategist of the Ramos victory and then he made a personal promise. " It won't be difficult to reach an understanding with the LDP."

The meeting lasted ninety minutes.

On the last days of May, only three candidates remained in contention for the presidency: Ramos, Santiago, and Cojuangco vs. The Government on Election, taking no neutral step, warned of a constitutional crisis unless Congress proclaimed a new president by June 30.

In early June with the MOJC (Martin-Cuneta's Quick Count) tabulating almost 90 percent of the estimated 21 million votes cast, the Ramos team made a decisive but controversial move: the statistically-based victory.

Cojuangco's immediate reaction was explicitly hostile.

A difficult fight awaited them in Congress. Despite powerful allies within the party, de Venecia sensitized Ramos that the time had come to reach out to Cojuangco, the strongest force among the pro-Marcos political groups.

Anxiety Talks II

In June Cojuangco wrote to the joint canvassing committee seeking proclaimed-level scrutiny of the election returning in Cebu, Iloilo, Pangasinan and Basilan-gas—four vote-rich provinces that LDP spokesman Salvador Escudero III had won riddled with "reports of rampant poll-rigging." Cojuangco alleged that Malacañang officials had instructed provincial governors to give 10 percent of the election. "The money was clearly used to finance massive vote-buying and ballot-switching," he claimed.

This was the delicate political atmosphere when de Venecia made his initial approach to set up a Ramos-Cojuangco parley. De Venecia turned to Representative Jose Isidro of Bukidnon, an MOC pillar, seeking his help to arrange this meeting. Although Cojuangco's party had forty-seven seats in the House, he was only the eighty-plus of the LDP which gained the plurality. MPC punched a political wailing because to members were united in their goals and direction. About this time, De Venecia had already offered a coalition between Lakas and PMPC, Ramos to Cojuangco's party by its dominant position in size and strength of commitment. The power-sharing and burden-sharing arrangement eventually would translate into sixteen MOC committee chairmanships in the House, more significantly the Speaker's position. That Ramos needed to secure his proclamation. He also boosted his own chances in the upcoming battle for Speaker.

This was the situation as de Venecia sat in the receiving room of Cojuangco's residence in Forbes Park, Makati—on July 16; and Cojuangco had been in the same Congress in 1998 that was dominated by fraternal ties. "When I shook his hand, I knew that I was welcome to talk with him as if it were the old days," de Venecia recalled. Others were there. "I introduced him to each of my staff members and Illinois years later. "I introduced him to each of my staff members and Illinois years later. "I introduced him to each of my staff members and Illinois years later

Philippine Science High tops UP math competition

MAPH ACES FROM THE PHILIPpine Science High School of Quezon City topped the recent "MATHong MATIbay" annual mathematics competition of the University of the Philippines Math Major Circle (UPMMC).

The state-run PSHS was represented by Alvin Wilmore Alba, Roberto Joy Hernandez and Dianne Francesca Oliveros in the 40-school contest held last weekend at the UP Institute of Mathematics and Math Education Development Auditorium.

Aside from the coveted "Wonder(MATH)bay Championship Trophy," the three also took home P15,000 from the competition sponsored by the bayanes, the MSA Academic Advancement Institute and SPM Prods Corp.

The Makati Science High Schools Joel Edward Cardinal, Rochelle Mica Cunico and Kevin Rom Nera and St. Paul Pasig's Angeline Blanquel, Dorothlee Sinfuego and Ms. Regine Paz Orgbas took second and third place honors. The MSHS and SPP teams got P10,000 and P5,000, respectively.

The winning coaches were coached by Jose Mesiyas Ancion Espaldon IV (PSHS), Mark Anthony Miralla (MSHS) and Cinderly Cruz (SPP).

The MATHong MATIbay contest aims to "promote interest and enhance academic excellence in the field of mathematics through team-school math competitions."

This theme of this year's competition was "Exploring the Depths of Immeasurably" and was based on the element of water.

"Like the dynamic uses of water, the multifaceted role of mathematics is emphasized. Since water is the basic element of life, so is math, the universal foundation of many academic disciplines necessary for the development of society," explained the UPMMC, whose scholarship program is the beneficiary of the event.

Other schools that competed included Angelicum College, Ateneo de Manila, Chiang Kai Shek College, College de San Juan de Letran, De La Salle Zobel, Grace Christian College, Kalayaan National High School, La Salle Greenhills, Xavierville School of Muntinlupa, Miriam College, New Era University, Ruiz Catholic School, Philippine Academy of Salaya, Sacred Heart College, San Beda College-Alabang, and St. Jude Catholic School.

The PSHS team placed second in last year's edition of the contest which was won by the Dalat Christian High School Ateneo de Manila High School team third.

Carlfred and the Rexlgard sisters were part of the Philippine team that won 19 medals the International Math Competition held last month in Chiangmai, Thailand.

The team, trained by the non-government Mathematics Trainers Guild Phil., placed fourth overall in the 33-nation IB, topped by China, Thailand and Indonesia. Jerry C. Esplanada

Use your MasterCard to buy a MacBook Air and get a FREE Canon PIXMA IP100 worth P13,495.

Promo period is from Sept. 18 to Dec. 18, 2008 only. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 0168 Series of 2008.

POWER MAC CENTER

GREENBELT 5 • POWER PLANT MALL • SM MEGAMALL
SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM MALL OF ASIA • TRINOMA

www.powermaccenter.com

Authorized Reseller

It was more like going on a picnic

By Neal Adlu G. Velasco

(Editor's Note: The writer is an inquirer designated who is currently detailed with the Asian News Network office in Bangkok.)

BANGKOK—I WAS BARELY a month here when antigovernment protesters stormed the Government House, the seat of Thailand's government and administrative center, the airports in Bangkok, one in Phuket and three in Hat Yai were shuttered and clean-up crews in the country's tourist areas had to deal with the mess left behind by the protesters.

Then, the protesters surrounded Bangkok's old international airport where Somchai has been temporarily holding office.

It was a pyrrhic victory, however. The police allowed them to march the Parliament complex.

On Tuesday night, the protesters broke into the Bangkok International Airport to prevent the landing of Somchai's plane on Wednesday night. But prompted authorities to close the airport and cancel all flights, stranding thousands of passengers.

Big political gamble

It was a big political gamble by the PAD, which has seen its support declining because of its anti-democratic and provocative moves.

Among those stranded were many Filipinos who were told that their flights had been canceled. They were working in Thailand as OFWs.

I myself could not fly to New Delhi on Thai Airways for a conference.

The Filipinos living and working in Thailand are not amused by the airport seizure.

"[The] PAD obviously wants to make its name as the democratic group that's willing to expose the government for the last six months, but this time they have gone overboard. They seem to exist in a vacuum and are conveniently ignoring the economic expectations of their actions on Thailand, which will be hosting the Asean summit this December and whose tourism revenues account for a big chunk of its GDP," says Yasmin Lee Aspin, a Bangkok-based Filipino journalist.

Tourism loss

"And for what exactly? Thaksin is not Marcos who ruled for 20 years and committed human rights violations, not to mention raped the Philippine economy," Aspin added.

Another Filipino journalist, Joselle Tenorio, said the PAD had "gone too far. "It's like putting another nail into the coffin."

Thailand's economy and tourism industry have been suffering because of the months-long protests.

Tourism is the highest income-generating industry in Thailand with around 547 billion baht (US$15.42 billion) in revenues a year.

"With thousands of tourists stranded at the airport this week, it sends a strong signal to the international community that it is no longer safe to go to Thailand. The protesters' act is simply foolish," Tenorio said.

Even the PAD had issued tepid, flimsy and feeble airports in August.

Strike cripples Albay

By Ryhnarro Aguilar, Roy Gonzaga and Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUBLIC TRANSPORT WAS virtually paralyzed in Albay and about 70 percent of public transport was halted in Sorsogon.

George San Mateo, Piston secretary general, claimed that 70 percent of suburban traffic was paralyzed in Naga City and 90 percent in Legazpi City.

No strike took place in Camalig, since while a transport caravan was held in Bonbon. Figures were still being gathered in Ligao, Tabaco but such Camalig Bus Operators and Drivers Association president Jeff Ty said.

Supt. Elmira Bren, Bicol police spokesperson, said more than 10 government vehicles had been deployed to office-less cities in the public.

The PNP Army, Air Force, Navy and local government units initiated a free ride program.

Other drivers ply routes

In Sorsogon, the strike paralyzed the transport of passengers in the towns of Gubat, Juban, Magallanes, Irosin, Matnog and Bulan. But Mike Frayna, president of the Sorsogon Tricycle Operators and Drivers, said not all drivers joined the mass action.

Some drivers in other groups, who earlier said they would join the nationwide strike, did not do so and instead continued to ferry passengers.

Frayna particularly referred to Provincial Transport Alliance president Ding Robles, who earlier said his group would lead the transport strike but was the "first" to continue on plying passengers around the Legazpi City.

Robles is one of the drivers of Filcab vans from Sorsogon to Legazpi.

Naga City officials said transport services continued unhampered even as members of Cabe-Piston participated in the strike. They noted a majority of the drivers from other transport groups continued plying their routes.

Lito del Rosario, chief of the Naga City Public Safety Office, said the overall situation of the transportation services in the city was "normal as of" early morning yesterday.

He announced that there was no need for the schools to suspend classes.

Short notice

Tyrone Jusacan, leader of the Federation of Tricabilo Operators and Drivers in Naga City, complained that his group was not prepared to take part in the strike because it was informed at short notice.

Jusacan said the group only learned of the support of the strike.

Rafael Dingle, president of the Federation of Transport Operators Drivers Associates and Cooperatives (Datodac), said nothing happened even as he commuted on Tuesday the participation of his group in the nationwide strike.

Dingle pledged that all the drivers and members of Datodac, a province-wide transport organization, would stop plying their routes but cautioned that they could not guarantee a 100-percent transport paralysis because of the short notice.

Abel Arevalo, regional chair of the Concerned Drivers and Operators for Reform (Condor)-Metro, said Shell, Chevron and Petron should implement a one-time big rollback since all prices in the world market had dropped significantly.

San Mateo said transport operators would proceed to Metro Manila on Nov. 28 and visit the main offices of the Big 3.

Step down, hold snap polls, says Army chief

From page A1

said many more that he will not quit or disolve parliament because he has been democratically elected. That still stands," he told Channel 3 television.

There was no immediate reaction from the PAD, which began a "final push" on Monday to arouse the administration. Mobilizing Bangkok's main airport and ensuring flights to be canceled on Wednesday.

Somchai, whom the PAD accused of being a puppet of Thaksin, has further to lose, returned from an Asia-Pacific summit in Peru later on Wednesday. He landed at the Don Mueang military airport at 3 p.m. to pick up key Cabinet members and immediately proceeded to Chiang Mai.

Supporters in red T-shirts welcomed them as the Chiang Mai airport at 6:15 p.m.

Prospect of clashes

Thai media reports speculated Somchai may declare a state of emergency in Bangkok.

Earlier, protest leader Sondhi Limthongkul rejected a government offer of talks to end the PAD's blockade of the airport, where thousands of angry travelers were left stranded.

"You must quit first before anything else," he said, also with you," he said during a major protest at the airport, repeating the PAD's demand that Somchai resign.

After making PAD members stepped up their action by breaking into the control tower at Suvarnabhumi airport, a rival progovernment group said it would launch its own street action, taking the prospect of clashes.

"What they have done are terrorist acts," Jatuporn Prompan, a ruling party politician and leader of the anti-PAD Democracy Alliance to Combat Dictatorship, told a news conference.

Damaging to economy

The unrest forced the stock market and Thai baht losses in early trade as investors feared the crisis could exacerbate the problems facing the Thai economy but stocks had turned higher by the close amid speculation Somchai would quit.

Thailand's finance minister has said the protests could have a damaging effect on the economy, which depends on tourism and exports, both vulnerable to the global economic slowdown.

The government forecast this week that the economy would grow just 4.5 percent this year, its slowest rate in seven years.

Flights diverted

Thousands of passengers slept overnight on benches and luggage carousels at Suvarnabhumi, many angry that airport staff that where the PAD demonstrators, declared the increasingly ugly Thai drama, rounded the terminal.

"We came here and we saw all these people in yellow. He thought they were football fans. Now we're just waiting," said a Belgian who gave his name as Mark.

Thai airways, the national carrier, said 16 inbound flights had been diverted to Bangkok's old airport Don Muang, 45 kilometers from Suvarnabhumi, and another three flights to a Vietnam. Warnis on base 336 km southeast of Bangkok.

Most airlines halted services to the Thai capital, a regional hub with 125,000 passengers passing through Suvarnabhumi daily.

Not confrontational

Police have gone out of their way not to escalate the tension by confronting the PAD, although sporadic clashes in the streets on Tuesday as armed PAD members took on government supporters.

At least 15 people were hurt, officials said, in violence scenes shown on Thai television that are likely to undermine public support for the PAD's campaign to drive the backing of Bangkok's urban middle classes and elite.

Steadily spreading, Thaksin and the Somchai government have the support of rural voters and the urban poor. —Reports from Reuters and Neal Adlu Velasco

Unioil cuts prices

From page A1 and PNP AVA files

The Pilipinas Shell Corporation ng Tatpet at Operasyon Internasyonal (Petron), which yesterday had a transport strike in the Bicol region, announced that the group was initiating for a rollback by the Big 3. (Story on Page A6.)

"If the small players, like Unioil, are able to cut prices, why can the big companies?" said George San Mateo, Piston national secretary general.

He said the right to operate in the price of oil to the world market is a KEY a barrel on Wednesday was "negligible" and did not diminish his group's resolve on a cutback of P4 a liter.

Chaos were suspended in all schools and universities in Sorsogon and Albay yesterday because of the transport strike.

Flying V Lumbanasi Unioil for "taking hostile to unconscionable announcements with deceiving members to advance (its) image and credibility."

Jerry Cruz, Flying V vice president, said retail network spectator said the company's profit will realizing its next move. But should it again cut prices, it would be by as much as P3 a liter for gasoline.

"For this month, Flying V has already announced price cuts totaling 93 per liter for gasoline and P1.96 per liter for diesel," Cruz said. "To match Unioil's changes, we only need to deduct these figures from their announced levels."

On Tuesday, Brand Petroleum Corp., cut prices by P2 a liter for gasoline and P1 a liter for diesel.

Dubai crude down

Data from the Department of Energy show that prices of the regional benchmark Dubai have gone down by almost $80 per barrel after peaking at $131.27 by July.

The price of Dubai crude stood at $54 a barrel as of Nov. 27.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), benchmark for refined petroleum products fell by $60 a barrel, while the price of diesel stood at $75 a barrel.

Amid an increasingly decelerating economic outlook, world oil prices continue to decline as traders worry about weaker demand for energy.

Overcharging

In Bicol, public transport workers, who are clamoring for an 18% cutback in diesel and gasoline prices, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to use his power to prevent the "Big 3" oil companies from overcharging the public.

"That is if the President is not cowering with the giant oil companies. His takeover of the overpricing can be considered *obertya-al-of public trust*," said Leo Mateo.

Fuel Rhino said that, with the P8 overprice, the three oil companies were able to rake in around P4 million daily in profits from jeepney drivers and P20 million from tricycle drivers.

The estimates were derived by multiplying P8 with 38 liters, the normal daily consumption of a jeepney, and with 2,500,000, the total number of public utility jeepneys nationwide.

The same formula was used for tricycles, which normally consume five liters daily. There are at least 4,000,000 tricycles in the country.

THE RICHEST CUT Consumers are now enjoying a rollback of fuel prices as world oil crude tumbles $90.

US, Europe allot $1 trillion to ease credit crunch

From page A1

unveil bring Washington's total bailout commitments, loans and pledges of backing to as much as $8.6 trillion, more than half of America's $14-trillion gross domestic product for this year.

On Wednesday, French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde said the European Union planned to unveil later in the week a coordinated initiative to plan involving tax cuts and increased social benefits. Source said the cost of the package may reach $250 billion.

The Fed move came after official rates slumped the United States had pushed the sharpest fall in gain domestic product since 1982, joining Europe in recession.

Consumer spending plunges

The US Department of Commerce said the world's biggest economy declined at an annual rate of 0.5 percent in the July-September period, worse than the initial 0.1-percent estimated a month ago as consumer spending fell by the largest amount in 28 years.

In China, the government announced its biggest interest rate cut in a decade. China cut by 108 basis points the banks' benchmark lending and deposit rates a day after the World Bank said Chinese growth rate year would only be around 7.5 percent—the slowest rate since 1990.

The People's Bank of China also reduced reserve requirements by 1 percentage point for big banks and by 2 percentage points for smaller banks.

"It's certainly a lot more aggressive than anything they've done recently. I think it speaks volumes about just how much China has slowed down," said Stephen Green of Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong.

At the heart of US woes

The Fed's latest action is intended to strike at the heart of US economic woes—the collapsed housing market. The ensuing meltdown in the high-risk mortgage market engulfed the world and caused the worst financial crisis in 80 years, forcing some to credit, sparking bank collapses and requiring the bailout of entire countries.

Washington has launched various programs to prop up the financial system, several from markets and rescue faltering companies.

Under its latest massive lifesupport intervention for the US financial system, the Fed will purchase $200 billion in mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., a government agency that gives investment approved on Friday that is aimed at boosting interest credit markets.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast on Tuesday that growth among its 30 members nations would contract by 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter "before gradually recovering" in 09 countries. Reports from Reuters and AP

2-year dash for growth

Legarde said the commission is set to urge the European Union's 27 members to embark on a two-year dash for growth, even if it means breaking the region's customed deficit targets.

"The measures have to be targeted so that after the two years, when we have got out of the crisis period, we can get back in the path of fiscal discipline," she told reporters, controlling and reducing debts, reducing public debt," she told French media.

European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet was quoted in an Egyptian newspaper as saying that the bank would do whatever was necessary to provide liquidity to financial markets over the short term.

Authorities across the world are struggling to keep their economies from sliding deep into recession and have already pumped billions into banks, financial markets and more. Broader measures as well as slashing interest rates.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast on Tuesday that growth among its 30 members nations would contract by 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter "before gradually recovering" in 09 countries. Reports from Reuters and AP

Pastoral Statement

STANDING UP FOR THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative power of God (CCC 2258). The Church carries out the mandate of the Lord to go and proclaim to all the nations the Gospel of Life. The protection and preservation of human life and the preservation of the integrity of the procreative act of parents are important elements of our mission from the Lord. It is our fidelity to the Gospel of Life and our pastoral charity for the poor that leads us, your pastors, to make this moral stand regarding Reproductive Health Bill 5043 that is the object of deliberations in Congress.

The Bill makes a number of good points. Some of the issues that it includes under reproductive health care, for instance, are the kind of things our human institutions would have any reason to oppose—maternal, infant and child health and nutrition, promotion of breastfeeding, adolescent and youth health, elimination of violence against women, etc., but the Bill as it stands now contains fatal flaws which if not corrected will make the Bill unacceptable. It is our collective discernment that the Bill in its present form poses a serious threat to life of infants in the womb. It is a source of danger for the stability of the family. It places the dignity of womanhood at great risk.

The Church has always concerned itself with the poor. It has innumerable institutions and programs meant to help the poor. Our objection to this Bill is precisely due to our concern that in the long run this Bill will not uplift the poor. "The increase or decrease of population growth does not by itself spell development or underdevelopment". (CICP Statement, July 10, 1990)

Even as we recognize the right of the government to enact laws, we also reiterate that there must be no separation between God and Man. We appeal to our legislators to state in the Bill in clear categorical terms that human life from the moment of conception is sacred. We appeal to our legislators to insure that the Bill recognizes, preserve and safeguard freedom of conscience and religion. The Bill must inspire parents not only to be responsible but to be heroic in their God-given and State-recognized duty of parenting. Without these conditions, the Bill if enacted into law will separate our nation from Almighty God.

Sacredness of Life from Conception. The current version of the Bill does not define clearly when the protection of life begins. Although it mentions that abortion is a crime it does not state explicitly that human life is to be protected upon conception as stated in the Constitution. This ambiguity can provide a loophole for contraceptives that prevent the implantation of the fertilized ovum. The prevention of implantation of the fertilized ovum is abortion. We cannot prevent overt abortions by doing hidden abortions. It is a fallacy to think that abortions can be prevented by promoting contraception. Contraception is intrinsically evil (CCC 2370; Humanae Vitae, 14).

Even in the case of doubt as to the operative moment of the beginning of human life, the mere probability that the fertilized ovum is already a human life renders it imperative that it be accorded the rights of a human person, the most basic of which is the right to life (Evangelium Vitae, #60, cfr. Declaration on Procured Abortion, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, November 18, 1974). When there is doubt whether a human life is involved, it is immoral to kill it. This is not just specifically Catholic Church teaching but simply natural law ethics.

Freedom of Conscience. By mandating only one Reproductive Health Education Curriculum for public and private schools, the Bill could violate the conscience of educators who refuse to teach forms of family planning that violate their religious traditions. This provision also could violate the rights of parents to determine the education of their children if the proposed curriculum would contradict their religious beliefs.

The Bill mandates that employers should ensure the provision of an adequate quantity of reproductive health care services, supplies and devices for their employees. This provision could be a violation of the conscience of employers who do not wish to provide artificial means of contraception to their employees because of religious reasons.

The Bill's provision that penalizes malicious dissemination against the intention and provisions of the Bill is without defining what malicious dissemination is; could restrict freedom of speech by discouraging legitimate dissent and hinder our mandate to teach morality according to our Catholic faith. The IRD does not mention any consultations with religious groups or churches which could be interpreted to mean that religious and moral beliefs of citizens are not significant factors in the formation of policies and programs involving reproductive health.

Heroic Parenting. Family health goes beyond a demographic target because it is principally about health and human rights. Gender equality and women empowerment are central elements of family health and family development. Since human resource is the principal asset of every country, effective family health care services must be given primacy to ensure the birth and care of healthy children and to promote responsible and heroic parenting. Respect for, protection and fulfillment of family health rights seek to promote not only the rights and welfare of adult individuals and couples but those of adolescents' and children's as well.

We admonish those who are promoting the Bill to consider these matters. It is the duty of every Catholic faithful to form and conform their consciences to the moral teaching of the Church. We call for a more widespread dialogue on this Bill.

As your Pastors we speak to you in the name of the Lord: Choose life and preserve it. Stand up for the Gospel of Life!

May Mary, Mother of Life, who carried in her womb Life Himself, guide us to the Truth of Life.

For the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines

+ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO, DD
Archbishop of Jaro
President, CBCP
November 14, 2008

Cardinal Ricardo Vidal (*Cebu*); **Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales** (*Manila*); **Abp. Paciano Aniceto** (*San Fernando, Pampanga*); **Abp. Ramon Arguelles** (*Lipa*); **Abp. Fernando Capalla** (*Davao*); **Abp. Oscar Cruz** (*Lingayen-Dagupan*); **Abp. Jesus Dosado CM** (*Ozamis*); **Abp. Onesimo Gordoncillo** (*Capiz*); **Abp. Antonio Ledesma SJ** (*Cagayan de Oro*); **Abp. Leonardo Legaspi OP** (*Caceres*); **Abp. Carmelo Morelos** (*Emeritus of Zamboanga*); **Abp. Jose Palma** (*Palo*); **Abp. Orlando Quevedo** (*Cotabato*); **Abp. Ernesto Salgado** (*Nueva Segovia*); **Abp. Dindulo Talamayan** (*Tagaytay*); **Abp. Romulo Valles** (*Davao*); **Abp. Isabelo Abaquen** (*Calbayog*); **Msgr. Fortunato Abiera** (*San Jose, Antique*); **Bp. Jose Advincula** (*San Carlos*); **Bp. Guillermo Afable** (*Digos*); **Bp. Benjamin Almonedo** (*Emeritus of Daet*); **Bp. Patricio Alo** (*Iligan*); **Bp. Isonoo Amardilla Cloft** (*Emeritus of Tandag*); **Bp. Gerardo Alminaza** (*Jaro*); **Bp. Prudencio Andaya CICM** (*Tabuk*); **Bp. Pedro Arigo** (*Puerto Princesa*); **Bp. Teodoro Bacani** (*Emeritus of Nueva Caceres*); **Bp. Ricardo Baccay** (*Tagbilaran*); **Bp. Filemeno Bactol** (*Naval*); **Bp. Jose Colin Bagaforo** (*Calbayog*); **Bp. Sofronio Bancod** (*Calbayog*); **Bp. Arturo Bastes SVD** (*Sorsogon*); **Bp. Emilio Bataclan** (*Cubao*); **Bp. Joel Baylon** (*Marbel*); **Bp. Rodolfo Beltran** (*Puerto Laguna*); **Bp. Patricio Buzon SDB** (*Kalookan*); **Bp. Emmanuel Cabajar** (*Pagadian*); **Bp. Antonieto Cabajog** (*Surigao*); **Bp. Wadito Cajandig** (*Calapan*); **Bp. Porfirio Camiltan MSB** (*Masbate*); **Bp. Carlito Cenzon CICM** (*Baguio*); **Bp. Florentino Cinense** (*Tarlac*); **Bp. Francisco Claver SJ** (*Emeritus of Puerto Laguna*); **Bp. Julito Cortes** (*Cebu*); **Bp. Bernardino Cortez** (*Manila*); **Bp. Pablo Virgilio David** (*San Fernando, Pampanga*); **Bp. Francisco de Leon** (*Antipolo*); **Bp. Romulo de la Cruz** (*Kidapawan*); **Bp. Edwin de la Pena MSP** (*Marawi*); **Bp. Manolo de los Santos** (*Virac*); **Bp. Lee Dunca SOD** (*San Pablo*); **Bp. John F. Du** (*Pinamungajan*); **Bp. Reynaldo Evangelista** (*Boac*); **Bp. Buenaventura Famadico** (*Cotabato*); **Bp. Florito Galido** (*Iligan*); **Bp. Gilbert Garces** (*Daet*); **Bp. Camilo Gregorio** (*Bataan*); **Bp. Oscar Jaime** (*Malaybalay*); **Bp. Deogracias Iñiguez** (*Kalookan*); **Bp. Leopoldo Jaucian** (*Batanes*); **Bp. Zacarias Jimenez** (*Butuan*); **Bp. Julito Jose** (*Urdaneta*); **Bp. Edgardo Juanich** (*Bislig, Palawan*); **Bp. Martin Jumoad** (*Iligan*); **Bp. Julio Labayen OCD** (*Emeritus of Infanta*); **Bp. Angelito Lampon OMI** (*Isla*); **Bp. Florentino Lavarias** (*Bo*); **Bp. Jose Romeo Lazo** (*Kalibo*); **Bp. Roberto Mallari** (*San Fernando, Pampanga*); **Bp. Jose Mangaran** (*Dipolog*); **Bp. Wilfredo Manlapaz** (*Tagum*); **Bp. Emilio Marquez** (*Escalante*); **Bp. Renato Mayuga** (*Lingayen-Dagupan*); **Bp. Leonardo Medroso** (*Tagbilaran*); **Bp. Jose Mercado** (*Pamplona*); **Bp. Nicolas Mondejar** (*Emeritus of San Carlos*); **Bp. Joseph Nacua OFMCap** (*Tagum*); **Bp. Vicente Navarro** (*Bacolod*); **Bp. Christian Noel** (*Tarlac*); **Bp. Nereo Odchimar** (*Tarlac*); **Bp. Jose Oliveros** (*Malolos*); **Bp. Honesto Ongtioco** (*Cubao*); **Bp. Broderick Pabillo** (*Manila*); **Bp. Honesto Pacana SJ** (*Malaybalay*); **Bp. Antonio Palang SVD** (*San Jose, Occ. Mindoro*); **Bp. Mario Peralta** (*Alaminos*); **Bp. Juan de Dios Pueblos** (*Butuan*); **Bp. Lucilo Quiambao** (*Legazpi*); **Bp. Salvador Quizon** (*Emeritus of Iligan*); **Bp. Gabriel Reyes** (*Antipolo*); **Bp. Artemio Rillera** (*San Fernando, La Union*); **Bp. George Rimando** (*Davao*); **Bp. Jose Rojas** (*Caceres*); **Bp. Francisco San Diego** (*Pasig*); **Bp. Luis Antonio Tagle** (*Imus*); **Bp. Jose Cenzon Tala-ao** (*Romblon*); **Bp. Rolando Tria Tirona OCD** (*Iligan*); **Bp. Antonio Tobias** (*Novaliches*); **Bp. Julian Tonel** (*Ipil*); **Bp. Emmanuel Trance** (*Catarman*); **Bp. Leopoldo Tumulak** (*Military Vicariate*); **Bp. Sergio Utleg** (*Laoag*); **Bp. Jesse Varela** (*Emeritus of Surigao*); **Bp. Crispin Varquez** (*Borongan*); **Bp. Mylo Hubert Vergara** (*San Jose, Nueva Ecija*); **Bp. Socrates Villegas** (*Balanga*); **Bp. Ramon Villena** (*Bayombong*)

Notes on CBCP's Position on HB 5043

1) HB 5043 is entitled "An Act Providing for a National Policy on Reproductive Health, Responsible, Functional and Population Development, and for Other Purposes". In appealing HB 5043, is the CBCP in effect against reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population development as such?

2. The CBCP advocates authentic and true health, advancement through programs and methods that respect the integrity of the human body and the dignity of the human person, never in the way that these concepts are presupposed, defined or self-understood and used by the bill in highly disturbing.

2) What are the main objections of the CBCP to HB 5043?

3. The bill has some good points. For instance, maternal, infant and child health and nutrition, promotion of breastfeeding, adolescent and youth health, elimination of violence against women. Such concerns do not in any way run opposition with the three (3) principles mentioned above. However, the bill contains certain aspects that are seriously flawed, undermine the constitutional and other fundamental and primary rights of Filipino families and individuals and pose serious threats to the Constitution.

3) Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution says that the State shall "protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception." HB 5043 is couched almost in meaning of "conception" and of the moment when protection of human life begins. This creates a possibility, for the Bill could be interpreted, "fertilized

contraceptives, intrauterine devices, injectables and other allied reproductive health products" (Sec. 10), some of which are intended precisely as preventing the implantation of the early human life in the mother's womb. The Bill's ambivalent avoidance of any express reference to conception or the moment of fertilization renders the Constitution's protection of the life from the moment of conception meaningless.

4) Section 10 of HB 5043 refers to the contraceptive products mentioned above as "essential medicines". What pathologies are these "essential medicines" supposed to treat? Fertility is an anomaly of health; it is not a disease. Most of these so-called "reproductive health products" do not only counter the normal fertility and reproduction of a newly conceived human life, they also imperil the life and health of the mother, as confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The State has a duty to the common consumers... from hazardous products" (Art. XVI, Sec 9.) Contraceptives, and "to protect and promote the right to health of the people" (Art. II, Sec.15, 1986). Health is a constant human right.

5) Section 11 of HB 5043 requires a "Mandatory Age-Appropriate Reproductive Health Education" curriculum for public and private schools. Such basic mandated Reproductive Health Education would violate the basic and primary right of parents to determine the religious education of their children in accordance with their religious beliefs (if majority of its citizens are Catholic, then majority of Filipino families are Catholic families) and the right of families to be primarily responsible for their religious upbringing (Art. II, Sec. 12, 1987) and the constitutional right of educators who will refuse to violate a curriculum that contradicts their strongly held faith and religious convictions. The State has duty to "defend:

... the right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the duties of responsible parenthood"; and "the right of families in family associations to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them" (Art. XV, Sec. 1 & 2, 1987.)

6) Section 9 of HB 5043 provides that "Valid family planning methods, including the use of hormonal, intrauterine device, injectables, barrier methods and natural methods, shall be made available to the public in a manner consistent with the religious beliefs of the couple." ... For religious persons, such services shall be fully accessed by Philhealth insurance and/or government financial assistance." It is unconscionable for the State – using tax-payers' money – to provide harmful artificial contraceptives (which the pro-life movement calls religious belief) of majority of its citizens – health workers included.

It is grossly disturbing that Section 11 includes among "prohibited acts" the refusal of any health care service provider "to perform and/or provide information and service on reproductive health care services on any person of legal age on the ground of lack of spousal consent or authorization". This is an affront on the autonomy of spouses, on "the sanctity of family life" (Art. II, Sec 12, 1987), and the spouses' unity and mutuality in marriage, which is acknowledged in the Constitution as an "inviolable social institution" (Art. XV, Sec. 2, 1987.)

7) Section 17 of HB 5043 provides that "All collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) shall provide for the full delivery by the employer of reasonable quantity of reproductive health care services, supplies, and devices to all workers..." Establishments or companies with no CBA's are also covered. This provision undermines the freedom and rights of employers who will refuse to as are, on grounds of religious belief. After all, "no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination are preferred, shall forever be allowed" (Art. III, Sec. 5, 1987.) This right is inviolable. "Religious freedom is a fundamental right which is entitled to the highest priority and the amplest protection among human rights, for it involves the relationship of man to his Creator" (Aglipay vs. Ruiviga, 137 SCRA 316).

(In HB 5043's Sec. 23 any penalties "any person who maliciously engages in disinformation shall be fined or imprisoned..." Even when considering "malicious disinformation", the bill is silent. It is here that: "No one shall be punished abridging the freedom of speech ... of expression. ..." (Article III, Section 5, Constitution).

We have stated before and we say it again that we categorically and unequivocally oppose any attempt on the part of the State to impair or defile the God-given, basic, inviolable rights of the human person and the family such as the right to live and to live with dignity, to love, to found a family, and to progress. To us, the only legislative parameters in these matters is one that seeks to protect these rights from harm, not undermine them, or grant power to the State to infringe them.

As we declare these principles, we as we, knowing and firmly holding that the enabling regarding the founding principles of so-called regulation of births is inhibited by all the characteristics of the infallible ordinary teaching of the Church. As Pope John Paul II declared us, we are dealing with something based upon the authority of God and bequeathed to His Church.

The KANGGUMANGLAIKO NG PILIPINAS strongly supports this CBCP STATEMENT.

Ombudsman may call regional agri officials

By Alcuin Papa

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN MAY issue subpoenas to regional directors of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to explain the alleged involvement of former undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante in the P728 million fertilizer fund scam.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jahanlosi told a press conference yesterday that subpoenas could be sent to the directors "if it is warranted in the preliminary investigation."

But lawyer Frank Chavez, who filed the original case in the Office the Ombudsman, said the agency should have issued the summons to the directors a long time ago.

"The delay looks like 'a prelude to a whitewash,'" Chavez told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "If Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez is really doing her job, those subpoenas should have been sent a long time ago."

"The least the Office should do is to issue subpoenas and require these regional directors to put in writing what they said in the Senate (subcommittee on the budget of the Ombudsman," Chavez said. He added that the officials of the regional directors could be studied in relation to a counter affidavit executed by Bolante.

"On the rare occasion it (Office of the Ombudsman) moves, it sets its fingers out of sockets. But it is moving at speed (equivalent)," the lawyer added.

Jahanlosi said statements of the regional directors before the Senate "can be considered" in their investigation.

According to him, a new batch of findings related to the fertilizer fund scam will be released next week. This, he said, could lead to more charges against more congressmen who allegedly benefited from the release of the fertilizer fund, and other DA officials.

In a Senate hearing the other day, DA Regional Director Alexander Ordona alleged that Bolante had ordered that the beneficiary of a questioned fertilizer fund be changed from a food-government unit to a non-government organization (NGO).

Another regional director, Roger Clet of Region 12, contradicted Bolante's claim during a hearing last week that after releasing the funds, he (Bolante) no longer had a hand in how the funds would be given out and what fertilizers were to be distributed to the farmers.

Bishop hits GMA-Jesus analogy

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

INAPPROPRIATE

"This was the reaction of a bishop who has joined Catholic priests in the country to protest against the suggestion of an administration congressman that President Macapagal-Arroyo could be compared to Jesus Christ, since both were unpopular figures.

"Let's keep our sense of respect for religious matters," said Puerto Princesa Bishop Jesus in an interview yesterday at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines headquarters in Manila. "The comparison is inappropriate."

Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia Sr., the object of **sardines congressman** JG. used the analogy to debunk an allegation in the latest impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo that the public does not believe the President's claim that she did not cheat in the 2004 elections, citing a January 2008 opinion poll.

"More than 2000 years ago, our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified because of an opinion survey. Pontius Pilate presented our Lord to the crowd and said, 'Whom would you prefer, Barabas or Christ to crucify?'" Garcia said during the impeachment hearing Tuesday.

"Our Lord Jesus Christ lost in the survey. Is that how we are going to judge our President because of an opinion survey?" he added.

CBCP spokesman Monsignor Pedro Quitorio said he was also dismayed by the comparison.

"The use of the analogy is not proper," he stressed. "I don't know when the congressman meant or what he had in mind, but I think that was not proper. The context of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is different from the context surrounding the one being compared to our Lord."

NOW, WE'VE ADDED MORE FLIGHTS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS (ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES)

	FLIGHT NO.		FREQUENCY	DEP	ARR
HONGKONG	PR 312	MNL-HKG	Daily	19:55	23:55
BANGKOK	PR 732	MNL-BKK	Daily	18:55	21:35
OSAKA	PR 408	MNL-OSA	Daily	14:20	19:05
FUKUOKA	PR 426	MNL-FUK	Mo/Th/Fr/ Sa/Su	10:00	14:30

	FLIGHT NO.		FREQUENCY	DEP	ARR
SINGAPORE	PR 505	MNL-SIN	Daily	19:40	23:20
MELBOURNE	PR 211* via Sydney	MNL-MEL	Mo/We/Th	09:00	23:15
	PR 209*	MNL-MEL	Tu/Fr/ Sa/Su	20:30	07:40+1
SYDNEY	PR 211*	MNL-SYD	Mo/We/Th	09:00	20:15
	PR 209* via Melbourne	MNL-SYD	Tu/Fr/Sa/Su	20:30	10:45+1

*Effective Dec. 10, 2008

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS (ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES)

DAVAO	PR 813	MNL-DVO	Daily	06:30	08:30
	PR 817		Daily	14:00	16:00
	PR 815		Daily	18:10	20:10
	PR 821		Daily	19:00	21:00
	PR 820	DVO-MNL	Daily	09:20	11:15
	PR 818		Daily	16:40	18:35
	PR 816		Daily	20:55	22:45
	PR 822		Daily	21:40	23:35
PUERTO PRINCESA	PR 257	MNL-PPS	Mo/Su	14:20	16:00
	PR 108	MPG-MNL	Mo/Su	16:40	18:05

CAGAYAN DE ORO	PR 281*	MNL-CGY	Daily	07:10	08:50
	PR 282*	CGY-MNL	Daily	09:40	11:20
TACLOBAN	PR 102	MNL-TAC	Daily	13:35	15:05
	PR 104	TAC-MNL	Daily	15:45	17:10
TAGBILARAN	PR 172*	MNL-TAG	Mo/Fr/Sa/Su	05:30	06:50
	PR 174*	TAG-MNL	Mo/Fr/Sa/Su	07:35	09:00

*Daily flights effective Dec. 11, 2008

LEGASPI	PR 279	MNL-LGP	Mo/We/Su	10:05	11:35
	PR 280	LGP-MNL	Mo/We/Su	11:45	13:40

NEW ROUTES

Cebu to OSAKA	PR 410	CEB-OSA	Th/Su	08:05	13:30
	PR 409	OSA-CEB	Th/Su	14:30	18:00
DUMAGUETE	PR 291	MNL-DGT	Daily	07:00	08:20
	PR 293	MNL-DGT	Daily	14:45	16:05
	PR 292	DGT-MNL	Daily	09:00	10:20
	PR 294	DGT-MNL	Daily	16:45	18:05

To view full network and schedules, please visit www.philippineairlines.com/images/PAL_Network_Timetable_tcm61-6436.pdf

For bookings and inquiries, please call PAL Reservations Manila: (02) 855-8888, Cebu: (032) 340-0191, Davao: (082) 222-0888 or your travel agent or log on to www.philippineairlines.com

Philippine Airlines Clearly No.1
www.philippineairlines.com

Court orders Napocor: Take down Dasma power lines

A MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL COURT HAS ordered the National Power Corp. to dismantle the high-voltage transmission lines that pass through a portion of posh Dasmariñas Village in accordance with an October 2006 decision of the Supreme Court.

The Makati court issued the writ of injunction even after the Office of the Solicitor General argued that de-energizing the transmission lines would result in higher power costs and brownouts in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon.

"The Court is aware of the arguments of the defendants in preventing this Court from issuing the writ prayed for, but this Court cannot ignore a final and executory decision [of the Supreme Court]," Paras said in his order dated Dec. 15.

Government lawyers opposed an earlier ruling by the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) that de-energizing the Dasmariñas Village line would result in P80 million worth of systems losses and an increase of 0.5 billion in annual generation costs.

"More importantly, if the defendants [Napocor], through Transco, would de-energize the line, Transco would be forced to subpoenic or transfer the load from the [Biasi-Amorsolo line] to other transmission lines," the OSG lawyers said.

The line is being maintained by Transco, a government-controlled corporation that has recently been privatized in line with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001. The private National Grid Corp. of the Philippines is awaiting its legislative franchise to operate the transmission grid.

One dead as boat sinks off Batanes

BASCO, BATANES—ONE PERSON WAS confirmed dead, three others were missing while 16 passengers were rescued from a chartered ship that sank in the Balintang Channel 25 miles off Sabtang Island on Tuesday night.

The 100-foot Jason was carrying 30 passengers and crew, heavy equipment and construction materials when it encountered big waves and sank at about 7 p.m. Tuesday.

A passing ship bound for Japan, the MV Kanco, rescued the 16 passengers, including four Iranians, who were found floating in the sea.

Immediately after receiving calls for help from the MV Kanco, a search plane and a Coast Guard vessel were sent to the area where the MV Mark Jason reportedly sank.

Cagayan Valley including the northernmost province of Batanes, had experienced bad weather the past several days. At least eight people were reported killed in floods that struck coastal towns in Isabela and Cagayan. Artha Gundaya and Jimmabelle Gander

PCGG loses coco case by default

By Alexis Pupa

THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST ITS other coconut levy case when the Sandiganbayan dismissed a complaint against businessmen Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his wife Imelda, and six other people involving the alleged diversion of some P648 million of coconut levy funds from the development of Danak island to Dicoteria.

In a resolution issued Nov. 14, the antigraft court's 1st Division ordered Civil Case No. 0033-G, or the Bagatchi island project, removed from its docket because of the failure of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to prosecute the case.

There was not been a single hearing on the case since the original complaint was filed in July 1997.

But the justices left open the option for the government to refile the complaint when it is ready to pursue it again.

"Considering that nothing had been done by the parties to pursue this case notwithstanding the lapse of more than eight years, the Court deems the parties to have abandoned this case and hereby dismisses this subdivided complaint, without prejudice to the refiling thereof," they said.

The complaint alleged that Cojuangco, Marcos, Imelda and six other individuals conspired to divert some P648.79 million from the coconut levy funds—a levied tax imposed by Marcos on coconut farmers—drawn from the Coconut Industry Development Fund (CIDF) for their own gain.

The CIDF, created on Nov. 14, 1974 through Presidential Decree 582, was a permanent fund for the development of hybrid coconut seed materials to supply high-yielding hybrid seedlings to coconut farmers. For its funding, the CIDF was given P5.00 million from the coconut levy Funds.

The CIDF was deposited with the Philippine National Bank and placed under the control of the National Investment and Development Corp. (NIDC).

The NIDC signed an agreement with duplicitous businessman Inc. (AIC) to produce hybrid coconut seedlings on a parcel of land located in Bagatchi Island, Palawan.

In June 1978, control over the CIDF money was transferred from the NIDC to the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

In its amended complaint, the PCGG stated that Cojuangco was both president and executive officer of UCPB at the same time that he and his associates controlled AIC.

When Marcos ended the monopoly in Aug. 27, 1981, UCPB terminated its agreement with AIC which disputed the bank's unilateral action. AIC also sought arbitration.

On March 29, 1985, a three-man arbitration board awarded P532.59 million in AIC as "liquidated damages" and forfeited the P426.26-million deposit had been advanced by the NIDC to AIC for the Bagatchi project. It also charged UCPB P1.50,000 in arbitration fee.

In its complaint, the PCGG sought the recovery of the P648.79 million plus interest and interest earned over the years. It also demanded moral damages in the amount of P12.5 billion and exemplary damages of P250 million on top of other damages that the court may determine.

In March 1998, the Sandiganbayan ordered the subdivision of the case into eight separate complaints.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 27, 2008
34th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Rev 10:1-2, 11-11; 11:1-3, 9a

Gospel: Lk 21:20-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you must know that the time has come when it will be reduced to a wasteland. Then, if you are in Judea, flee to the mountains; if you are in the city, leave it, and let those who are in the fields not return to the city.

"For these will be the days of fit punishment and all that was announced in the Scriptures will be fulfilled. How hard will it be for pregnant women and for mothers with babies in the future! For a great calamity will come upon the land, and divine justice upon this people. They will be put to death by the sword or taken as slaves to other nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled upon by the pagans until the time for the pagans is fulfilled.

"Then there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of perplexed nations when they hear the roaring of the sea and its waves. People will faint with fear at the mere thought of what is to come upon the world, for the forces of the universe will be shaken. And at this time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"Now, when you see the first events, stand erect and lift up your heads, for your deliverance is drawing near."

Commentary:

And so every symphony has a finale and every story of reading, so will the tapestry of our human experience be exploded when the Lord comes in glory.

In this world we view this tapestry only from the back, seeing only the loose ends of the threads. But on the day of the Lord we will see the tapestry from the front and discover that the dark threads add as much to its beauty as do the threads of silver and gold. There will be revelations of the divine in troubled times and our faith is enlivened.

ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 27 No. 333

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Post-account Feedback & inquirer.net account/site/storage no. 1237 Makati or 353 Quezon

EDITORIAL

'Everybody is for sale'

LEAVE IT TO THE IRREPRESSIBLE JOSE DE VENECIA to write the perfect epitaph for the House of Representatives he used to head. "Everybody is for sale in this country," said the five-time speaker who was ousted last February, when he testified on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo before the House justice committee last Monday. The impeachment complaint, De Venecia said, is an opportunity for his fellow congressmen to demean their image as "commodities for sale."

De Venecia offered his own testimony as a powerful denigrator. But yesterday, in a decision that did not surprise anyone, the administration-controlled majority in the House voted to stay dirty. Its members in the judiciary committee moved to dismiss the impeachment complaint for being insufficient in substance.

The dismissal is a grievous error and an outrage: it overlooks old accusations for insufficient charges. The very fact that a former member of President Macapagal-Arroyo's inner circle, De Venecia, had offered damning testimony against his former ally should have been enough to pass the sufficiency test. Yes, the fourth complaint filed against the President since 2005 alleges the same impeachable offenses against President Arroyo. But what of it? If she committed the crimes, she must answer for them.

De Venecia's testimony does not only complement the charges; it cements the case for them.

One of the enduring mysteries of the NBN-ZTE deal, for instance, is its sudden transformation from a build-operate-transfer undertaking (in other words, a project that would not cost the government a centavo) into a government-to-government loan. The Department of Transportation and Communications has tried to justify the change in terms of the project's scope, but its version of events still strikes as an insufficiently explanatory. In the start, the President had told the parliamentary clearly: no government money out. Even if, for the sake of argument, the scope of the National Broadband Network had been greatly expanded, a BOT undertaking would still have made sense. This was not exactly a revolutionary venture that could be funded only out of government funds; private companies would still have been interested. Besides, it is the taxpayers of the policy change that is made baffling.

De Venecia's testimony clears up that mystery. He confirms what others have intimated: that Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, the President's husband, changed the policy. "It was Mike Arroyo who said that perhaps it is best that this project be done [on] a government-to-government basis," De Venecia said. And, apparently, in this administration, what Mike Arroyo says, goes.

The former speaker also rounded out the picture the public already has of that infamous breakfast meeting in Malacañang in October 2007, when congressmen and local government officials were given bags of cash. De Venecia testified: "In that meeting, many were given P500,000 in bags of cash. I am not saying all of the congressmen. Many of the congressmen are not guilty for many received P500,000 bags from President Arroyo."

That was the same meeting where at least five other public officials, including the prime governor of Pampanga, admitted receiving bags of cash. "This leads money to congressmen and local government officials was her way of purchasing legal protection for one year," De Venecia testified.

His testimony that President Arroyo had even visited ZTE headquarters in Shenzhen, China, complete with souvenir photo, is no news. But in the context of the House hearing on the impeachment complaint, it should have moved the justice committee to consider the complaint in a new light. Here, after all, was the former paramount leader of the House majority, calling attention to the President's unusual interest in ZTE's stake in the NBN project. Isn't that, at the least, worth a closer look?

To be sure, De Venecia would be the first to acknowledge that the impeachment process is partly judicial and partly political; his role in previous dismissals of Arroyo's impeachment cases is unmistakable. That is why his testimony was premised on private conscience and public outrage. It sought to convince the majority that there was a deeper political meaning to their eventual decision. Unfortunately, the majority in the committee used judicial concerns to rationalize their acts of superior numbers. It was a page right out of the old JDV playbook.

Confusing Ali Baba with thieves

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TODAY SEEMS IMPEACHMENT HEADLINES reminded one of the 17th-little, "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves." The beatings differ from earlier ones: hidden in one unyielding aspect. Time is getting out. As 2010 approaches, the adrenalin level in both regime and opposition rises.

Opposition stalwarts and protecting by the regime's top brass are bandied. They like the latest headdress: House Resolution 1109 is speeding its way through the mill; it would amend the terms of all incumbents, starting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Who else dished the snake idea? The clergy. Bishop-Emeritus Rep. Hermilando Mandanas often isn't even original: Stretching terms would "honor presidential fiscal and national elections in all for-time for necessary transitory preparations."

This recycles Article XII (the Transitory Provisions) in the 2003 charter drafted by the Aldaba military brigade. Constitutional Commissioner Bernas 7 gained notoriety as the no-abortion ("No-El") provision. Objections by the drafts Jose V. Abueva, and 10 others were voted down by 22 other members. Now, like the cat with proverbial nine lives, RESOLUTION is back—and will be unique to "Filipinos."

In the impeachment debate, Cavite Rep. El. jobs Ramirez-Jalosjos II accused the opposition of submitting a "falsified complaint."

"We will not be falsified," Sen. Jose Miguel Rodolfo Zamora said before stalking out with his allies.

Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia is the oldest member of the House. The committee, which is controlled by the administration, "must determine substance." He asked, "Where's the beef?"

Garcia said in the words of his senility (indeed, today's complaint does not include the "deceased" ground for impeachment," namely the President's appetite for dismembering the country in the aborted Memorandum of Agreement for a Bangsa Moro Juridical Entity, said Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

"Nasan [Olympio] and the other left and center members—especially the chairman [in Wada Lampas], of all things, of a pro-American

I HAVE FOUR CONFESSIONS ARTICLE a couple of weeks ago and was glad to know vinyl is alive and, well, groaning. For those who are having senior moments and can't remember them, or those who are hearing junior moments and haven't heard of them [email box heard them], vinyl is the thing you spin on a turntable, a needle running through its grooves (wonder if that's the origin of "groovy") producing the scratchy sound you hear in loudspeakers. In last incarnation was the LP, or long playing record, which contained about a dozen songs to them, six to a side. If you have one, you're old. Like me.

I have used in the interest that came lately in the United States and Europe have remained producing vinyl records by now sell 88, though they're a lot pricier now than they once were. Nice to know there's a community here that keeps the vinyl flame of playing them. If not encouraging them, alive. I do have some audiophiles, a small tribe of rich metropolitan denizens who have expensive tastes in sound, who are shadow parties, playing only vinyl and refusing to compromise with CD. Of course, I have a number of digital video devices audiophile as someone who has an expensive taste in sound and cheap taste in music, but that's another years. I have the audiophiles, self-styled or otherwise, to debate the point.

The keeping of vinyl alive isn't entirely like the keeping of Stradivarius, or to use one less notoriously elite, as something to establish a sense of continuity by between past and present. It has a completely practical value. Which is that vinyl is superior in sound to the CD. That is at least the consensus among experts.

I can't claim to be one myself, but I do have vinyl and I know myself that I can distinguish subtle improvements or deteriorations in it in various audio material. I can personally vouch for that consensus. I do listen to vinyl, though I am by no means a purist.

Compact Disc's interviewers describe the vinyl sound as so much warmer, smoother and more realistic. My own way of describing it has to do with my experience of playing vinyl and CD

independent and anti-democratic subsector, torn from the side of our Republic with US and Japan as midwives," Locsin wrote. "To exclude that treaty-driven impeachment, just to maintain a communist Bangsa Moro alliance... is hypocrisy."

Nitist deliberately excluded the MOA from the current complaint," Locsin noted further. "But he would not and could not have because the Left now working hand in glove with the US and Japan to ... to set up an independent, pro-democratic integrated but pro-American colonate in Mindanao... Can you really subtract us for not laying down our arms to you ... apostle on an impeachment crafted and filed by pawns of that fifth Column. I refer to Satur and company."

There's no question the House majority will make short shrift of the admittedly rehashed complaints. And it will save the President's neck yet again. More and more, the place resembles a "den of thieves" so derided in "8 Thousand Saul Were Slain."

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia has ad dressed the committee, while Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo operates behind the scenes. Both sport tan lines. Both have zero credibility.

In a Malacañang meeting, a staffer showed a bag, stuffed with P500,000 in cash, to a fund-raising luncheon rep, De Venecia belatedly claimed. "This is an admission of bribery," argued the nine new inmates. President Juan Ponce Enrile. "Im furious at legislators."

"God has given you one hero! And you make yourself a villain!" Malacañang pointed out. But didn't Enrile do that too? Remember his martial law 'boss-false. So, is this whole exercise just a

Different world

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(when I was still playing CD) whenever I had a guest in the house. With CD, conversation is near-impossible at a certain volume. What comes out of the speakers is a wall of sound that makes for no-no. With vinyl, conversation is easy even at loud volumes. There's a certain quality to the sound that enables it to not occupy all the space around you but to weave through those spaces like a wisp. That was the advantage of Rennaissance Man, the place that used to be owned by Rolando Peñano in Makati frequented by media people. You could talk away when the guy playing the records at the booth caused the volume to levels that satisfied the customers who made the request.

It's nice to know that not all that is new-ery, scientific or improvement on the old. I am not averse to change and newness. I certainly prefer the PC to the typewriter, manual or electric. But it's nice to know that analog still has its virtues, or indeed its superiorities.

Using vinyl, however, does not just entail a deterioration in a new sound, or for one Baby Boomer generation an extension an old one, a mindless conversion, or reversion, to a now old culture. It entails re-entering a fairly unheard world, where you invest some time listening to music, treating it as a real object of interest rather than as background noise. And there's the rub. That seems an anachronism in today's world.

To play vinyl, you have to physically raise the lid of the turntable, clip the record into place, carefully lift the tone arm and lower the needle down to the edge of the spinning disc. At the end of first or six songs, you have to stand up, a not very easy thing to do if you've plunked down on the sofa, cushions beginning

to sink off you like the sibling of the ride, to flip the disc over. And you can't skip a song, unless you're prepared to stand up before the whole side is done. There's no "Next" on the player, or on the ultimate source of household woes, the remote control, to get you the next song you like.

If you're the type who just wants music to fill the void, you'll find that too cumbersome for comfort. Indeed if you're a food-supplied urban resident and a Baby Boomer to boot who drifted into the area of Ortigas while plotted to the north with babies, you're likely not even used those things don't get past three minutes or you won't want to have anything to do with it. But we are Pod, which can be recharged afterward even after you failed to give its (disposable) contents a (friendly) list beating. And which you can hook up to some stereo if you're one of those who get their audiophiles with earphones or headphones, with an entire library of songs to choose from.

But vinyl has its end of joys to reward those willing to be initiated into its world. At the very least, it doesn't give you a sense of life flitting by. The movie "Click" does have a thing or two to say about the nightmare behind the heaven of the remote control, something in the sense of "be careful what you wish for." Looking back, the reason the old songs seem so memorable to us, quite apart from the sentimental powers of nostalgia, was that we couldn't just click the annoying tracks away unless you were willing to go through the motions described above, listening to vinyl is not unlike preparing tea Zen-style. It is a ritual all its own.

At the very least, well, I may sound like a broken record (an idiom rarely used now). But if you like to pause every so often to reflect on what you're playing, you'll find still nothing beats the anachronistic old record, predictably unbroken.

Don't? Just find that difference between listening to it and listening to an iPod in the dit' between between "Ode to Joy" and "Ode to Joy."

Publisher Isaac Tonoy

Editor-in-Chief Letty Jacinto-Montemayor

Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Hilvano

Associate Editor Abelardo S. Llamzon

Assistant Editor for Special Projects Rosario A. Garcellano

Opinion Editor Joel V. Mejia

News Editors Antonio T. Carpio Jr. • Chief Copy Desk Supervisor Mark B. Pedro

Chief News Copy Desk Ruben C. Almazora

National Editor Philip Ed. Bandillo Jr.

Senior Desk Editor Jaya V. Santamaria Jr.

Editorial Desk Coordinator Rosemarie Dorcelo

Chief Photographer Edwin G. Santamaria

Art & Design Director Lisette E. Palabrica

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto

President Alexandre Pierre Romualdez

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Beatriz R. Mendoza

VP for Advertising Felipe R. Guazon

VP for Circulation Teodoro Teofilo R. Tan

Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Inquirer Building, 5th Floor
Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague St., Makati City
Tel. No. 896-6000

Cha-cha moves affect GMA's credibility

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SUPPORT OF THE IMPEACHMENT COMplaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo by the senior committee of the House of Representatives was predictable, despite the postulations of impeachment advocates that the 188-page complaint with 588 pages of attachments was adversarial. It will now be a legislative session where the voting is also predictable.

What's more difficult to comprehend is the move by some House allies of the President on Charter change. If, as the Palace and GMA's ace, Rep. Mike Arroyo, insists, she is determined to step down after her term ends in 2010, why then did Batasan Pap. Bin Imbalido Macalintal file a resolution seeking the extension of the terms of all elected officials, from the President down, to June 30, 2010? Macalintal's resolution is also a roadmap. Lakas leader, this move does not lend credibility to the administration's assertion, if the justification is to bring about economic stability, it is not commensurate to the political instability being generated.

Banking and finance experts opine that while our country seems to have escaped some of the worst effects of the global financial turmoil, we can expect a recession over the next two years as the full force of the crisis hits the rest of the world. Yet, including call center services. In view of this, the best thing to do is to postpone all Cha-cha moves to after the 2010 elections and concentrate instead on shoring up the economy and cushioning the recession's impact especially on the very poor. Three years ago I pushed hard for Cha-cha since that was the right time to do it. But this is not the right time for it.

* * *

Our return from Rome last week aboard Thai Airways allowed us to make a one-day stopover in Bangkok. As we walked around the shopping district, shop and restaurant owners lamented how business has deteriorated since the coup, even as the political instability. We exactly noticed that the number of foreign tourists had indeed dropped, barring the Thai economy which in turn accrued $10 billion yearly from tourism.

Our stopover also coincided with Bangkok-bound ugly Supreme said that even as the ling Fabregas, the huge same day to visit the other side of the crossroads of civilizations, which is also known for its fabulous cuisine.

Heading back to Rome, our farewell afternoon consisted of walking over to St. Peter's Basilica to attend a concelebrated Mass behind Bernini's magnificent altar, led by the renowned Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa and complete with choir and organ music. In four days, we caught Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera, "La Traviata," at an Anglican church in Via Nazionale. It was a perfect way to cap an Italian sojourn.

By the way, a correction: The name of the Airport Inspector-General is Fe Adolfo Nicolas, not Alfonso, as I wrote earlier.

* * *

Tess big musical events this weekend:

The gala concert, "Puccini Puccini" this Friday, Sept. 28, at the Manolito Octagonal Auditorium, presented by the Ateneo Women Society of the Philippines (AWSP) in partnership with the Italian Embassy and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's 150th birthday anniversary. The concert features select arias from his best operas, to be performed by Filipino sopranos Alma Cacnio-Sy and Irene Frances Belmonte, and Filipino tenor Rachel Fernandez, with Dr. Ernani Haertel as guest conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Host presenter Bernice Lichauco heads the meeting committee that includes key panel hostess Angelica Panganiban. Tickets available at the Manolito Lobby Shop; for inquiries call 733-8888.

The musical "Cats," produced by Sulyap Inang their foundation and written by composer-Filipino Friends Circle of Inst. Academic Pursuits, with directions by Bernice Ibarra and musical arrangements by Leo Quintin, goes on stage this Saturday Nov. 29 at 8 p.m., Sunday Nov. 30 at 3 and 8 p.m., and Monday Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theatre. "Miss Saigon" tenor-star Arthur Huang plays Grey Squire, Sherwin Ibarra is Kinsy, Robert Seña is Pretty Isaac Blanco and Pinky Blanquet is Imelda. Tickets at P300 and P500 are available at the Isaac Bell Gallery Contemporary service office. Call Sheila at 954-3 020.

Midnight talk

THE CLOCK HAD JUST STRUCK 12, BUT THERE I WAS, still sitting at the dining table with our adults. Three of them were drinking dark beer, the others, black coffee.

It was a night like any other, except for the fact that it was past midnight (and my bedtime) and I was listening to a lively discussion my parents, aunts and uncles were having. They were talking about many years past, the struggle they had gone through, and the maintenance of their generation.

They were Baby Boomers, the breakthrough kids, the ones with the highest potential. They were born in the 1940s, came of age in the time of the Vietnam War in 1967. And they are said to be the favorite generation of all time.

Among the ones the late John Lennon, Fred McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr made their minds, the time television was commercialized and entered households. Thirties was, according to them, the time of all time.

My father pointed out that they were the ones who made great strides in technology and that they had to go through a lot of adversity. The War had just ended when they were born or when they suffered as they grew up. "In our time, our parents were so strict. We had to be home before 5. We had to help out in the fields during weekends. We had to kneel down to say our prayers for two to three hours. We had to do this, and do that."

The conversation was overflowing with a mixture of laughter, sentiment and even contempt. These adults were talking about things their parents made them do or didn't let them do. They were talking about their rich morals and the values they had and which seem to have been lost nowadays. They were remembering curfews, chores, beliefs and values they had when they were still "your age."

"You kids are so lucky nowadays," said an aunt. "You don't have to work as hard, and you kids are so spoiled. Back in our days..."

And there I sat, taking it all in, listening to their alcoholic banter and laughter, and both their extremely profound ideas and the extremely foolish ones. I was not drinking anything and I was thinking straight. I had half a mind to leave the table and go to bed, but decided to just sit there like a mute while a pair of ice wanted to disagree, fight for our generation and address each of their concerns. I wanted to say that our generation does work hard and that we are so not spoiled.

Surprise, surprise, I have finally mustered the confidence to speak in behalf of my generation. I had taken no offense to how they praised their own generation, but I wasn't happy with the comparisons they made with mine and the sorely mean ideas they had of us. They have grown enough suffering and hunger and a large pile of problems, but to say that our generation is having it easy isn't true at all.

To them, having all the modern technology makes it very easy for us to handle our problems. Complexities are simplified by science. We have computers, calculators and heavy machinery to do our work for us. We have it all without having to lift a finger or use an iota of knowledge.

That don't fair from the truth. Yes, we do have technology at our fingertips and yes, we are able to multiply, divide, process and figure out easily the calculations they had trouble with during their time, but that does not mean all our problems are solved. As much as we have answered questions posed to us in the past, we have to face new ones.

Knowledge and science are a mine-headed dragon that grows two more heads when one is cut off, in which we are able to answer one question, a few more emerge, each harder than the previous one. Today, high school students study things that were only taught in college when I was in high school, because of technology, more is expected of us. Our work loads are increased because our professors think we would find it very easy to do normal homework with the use of technology. Accuracy and speed are demanded because we are supposed to be able to find the answers at the touch of a button.

Technology is far from being the answer to all our problems. As we develop the capability to fix the problems in front of us, the next problems get harder, the obstacles grow higher and more and more are expected of us. This is why I disagree that life is easier for us. We are not having an easy time because the load is constantly being raised.

They might be right in their comparing our generation to theirs, but I realized that I didn't need to defend's dragons. I knew that our generation wasn't anything like what they were talking about and although I knew that what they were saying was so wrong, I didn't feel the need to jump into the conversation and prove them all wrong. Actions speak louder than words, and I felt it was unnecessary to argue with them if I couldn't show them they were wrong. Conversations like that will forever be carried out until we do something about it and I'm not talking about defending our generation against the entire war call our parents. I'm talking about actually standing up and getting ourselves away from the television set, laptop and iPod Touch and do more in the real world. Yes, it may sound dreary, but making the world a better place is a lot better than jumping out on junk food and spending hours surfing the Net for the latest craze. I would do anything to prove the adults wrong, but that's not the reason. I'm making a stand. I want to do this because years from now I would not like to be the adult who is complaining about the younger generation and how flawed it is. I want to be part of the generation that puts a stop to all of this and make everything better so that I don't have to grow old complaining about the next generation.

I am not a Baby Boomer. I wasn't born a few years after the War and I am not very familiar with John, Paul, George and Ringo. I am spoiled, dependent and stubborn and I can prolly say the same thing about others of my generation. But that is not all that I am or all I'll have to offer. I belong to a generation full of creative ideas and intelligence. We constantly search for meaning in a world filled with people who are attached to their cell phones, Facebook, Friendster and camera range. We navigate our way through all the courses required of us to offer and, from time to time, surprise ourselves by discovering new ways to improve the world we are living in.

Twenty years from now, I will probably be sitting at home, drinking alcohol or coffee after midnight, talking about the young generation with a smile on my face and without a hint of bitterness or spite. Instead, I will marvel at how bright the future seems for the youth and how my generation helped mold them.

Meg Montesa, 17, is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Fishers and fish

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

NOVEMBER 21. FRIDAY LAST WEEK. WAS World Fishery Day. How many people in the country, fishers included, knew that? The notion of islands floating between seven dots and some sea is home to fishers and fish. Yet, among the poorest of the poor among us are the small fishers who subsist on their daily catch that are decimating by the day.

Those of us who try to live a meatless life as well little means to our diet entail the greatness of the fish. The omega-3 fatty acids in fish are the brain boosters and keenness in a fish head, which non-Asians now eat on because they have a horror for detached body parts.

Fishers and fish were often mentioned and given symbolic meaning in biblical times. Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. Peter among them. Jesus sent them all to the world with the words, "I will make you fishers of men."

Then there is the miracle of the fish. Fishers and fishing were at the heart of the Bible stories: the multiplication of the loaves and fish; the coin in a fish's mouth that Jesus said should be sufficient for tax, and which Peter went to look for as he was told. The resurrection of Jesus was first told by a fishing. "Friends, haven't you any fish?" followed by the naming of the sea and the drawing in of a large catch. So many fishing scenes. Sure, the first people were fishermen.

The fish became the underground sign of the persecuted early Christians. The Greek word *ichthus* (fish) is still very much on the scene today. You see it on bumper stickers and pendants. I have seen it on the walls of Christian homes in Rome. It was also one of the weekly underground (or underwater) Church publications. "Ichthys" (where U was involved, Ch'ys). I was often there and sometimes I had written in their editorial board and also wrote for all seasons—Jesse nuns who never ran out of substantive stuff to publish. Their names I reveal: Sr. Imelda Villegas SSM, Sr. Teresita Aquinas SSM, Sr. Clare Santiago SSC, Sr. Helen Graham MM, Sr. Pat Murray MM and the late Sr. Christine Tan DMI.

Fishers and fish were also mentioned in the Quran. Jesus was mentioned over 30 times and Mary, his mother, more than in the Bible. Fish and Quran were mentioning Danish royalty, as drinks served the new airports in Bangkok and lobbed bombs there. They seemed to bring the turmoil to a final resolution. It's hard to think of the gentle Thais as anything but pacific.

* * *

On our brief pilgrimage to Rome for St. Paul's 2000th birth anniversary, it helped very much that the studies of our artist friend Tonio Consejero, whose art vineyard, is currently located. We just happened to be in Rome when Tonio, Fr. Philippe Daulhet and his wife Edna hosted a small dinner for us, hosting Tonio, who stays mostly in his villa in the old Trastevan, areas of Trastevere with front dining, to some. Tonio is busy preparing for a May, 2009 show of his more recent paintings in Rome and in Naples in Salon Napoli, Florida.

Before leaving for Manila, we took a short plane ride to Palermo and followed a rather exhausting itinerary made by our son Buddy, who knows fairly passionately. Buddy, who writes for our Inquirer Southern Luzon magazine Tuesday, put it well when he wrote: "It cosmopolitan, multicultural, multi-cultural metropolis, a Mediterranean market, and a crossroad of ancient civilizations. Palermo is a city of contrasts and tensions in its 1000 century-old, magnificent churches next to dangerous boutiques, poorly made tenements housing, crumbling old buildings, and labyrinths of side streets." Definitely the most charming for their treasure filled buildings the small Capella Palatina in the Norman Palace and the huge church of Monreale in the outskirts, both of which detail the story of Creation up to the life of the apostles. Buddy also insisted that we visit the Mercato del Capo—a fish market that in the meantime, mostly three hours' ride from Palermo. We hope some day to visit the other side of the crossroads of civilizations, which is also known for its fabulous cuisine.

Heading back to Rome, our farewell afternoon consisted of walking over to St. Peter's Basilica to attend a concelebrated Mass behind Bernini's magnificent altar, led by the renowned Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa and complete with choir and organ music. In four days, we caught Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera, "La Traviata," at an Anglican church in Via Nazionale. It was a perfect way to cap an Italian sojourn.

By the way, a correction: The name of the Airport Inspector-General is Fe Adolfo Nicolas, not Alfonso, as I wrote earlier.

* * *

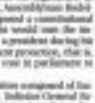
Tess big musical events this weekend:

The gala concert, "Puccini Puccini" this Friday, Sept. 28, at the Manolito Octagonal Auditorium, presented by the Ateneo Women Society of the Philippines (AWSP) in partnership with the Italian Embassy and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's 150th birth anniversary. The concert features select arias from his best operas, to be performed by Filipino sopranos Alma Cacnio-Sy and Irene Frances Belmonte, and Filipino tenor Rachel Fernandez, with Dr. Ernani Haertel as guest conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. Host presenter Bernice Lichauco heads the meeting committee that includes key panel hostess Angelica Panganiban. Tickets available at the Manolito Lobby Shop; for inquiries call 733-8888.

The musical "Cats," produced by Sulyap Inang their foundation and written by composer-Filipino Friends Circle of Inst. Academic Pursuits, with directions by Bernice Ibarra and musical arrangements by Leo Quintin, goes on stage this Saturday Nov. 29 at 8 p.m., Sunday Nov. 30 at 3 and 8 p.m., and Monday Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theatre. "Miss Saigon" tenor-star Arthur Huang plays Grey Squire, Sherwin Ibarra is Kinsy, Robert Seña is Pretty Isaac Blanco and Pinky Blanquet is Imelda. Tickets at P300 and P500 are available at the Isaac Bell Gallery Contemporary service office. Call Sheila at 954-3 020.

What's in it for them?

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

PERHAPS OF THE POLITICAL CRISIS COMES UP in conversation, the discussion usually turns into a debate over whether President Arroyo should resign now to serve out the remainder of her term (until 2010), or has greater ambitions. I maintain that she has never ruled out serving beyond the expiration of her present term, for many reasons. Among them is that she has never ruled out succession as president ends when she leaves office, and she cannot afford to relinquish that legal protection, that she has come to view herself as irreplaceable to rule, that she cannot trust any potential successor to protect her and her family and legal establishment.

On the other hand, there are those who say she knows but nothing is lost, because opposition to her will be strong no matter what she does, and a political vendetta because Filipinos easily forgive and forget, and that finally, she has no ambitions to remain in office anymore and should be left alone. Though some do go as far as suggest that by bringing down the curtain on her presidency, Arroyo's no-issue/never-mind have become inadvertently operative.

One of the longest and most interesting careers in Philippine political history was that of Aliatn Tolentino, who first gained prominence as a young leader in the 1950s, and became a senator in the 1980s. During the 1970s, he was a member of the House before a member of parliament and at one point foreign minister. He also became Ferdinand Marcos' running mate in 1986. After a ridiculous attempt to seize power from Corazon Aquino, he was subsequently arrested and detained, and finally released by being elected to the Senate in 1992. He died in 2006. Tolentino also wrote one of the most interesting autobiographies ever penned by a Filipino politician, titling his book "Piece of Dreams."

Tolentino's piece of dreams was a mixture of naivete and blinders to all whether she should step in office only until 2010 or more because, and earth to be president for his comeback out of an incident in 'be-

An assemblyman immediately chimed in supporting not only that the proposal for lifetime immunity for the president be dropped, but that all senators, but immunity should be lifetime as well for other officials. Tolentino recounts that "in the face of presidential no, nobody objected ... I did not object."

The proposed amendment was debated in parliament and Tolentino devoted six pages of his memoir to a transcript of the debate. He claimed he was able to "restrict down" the amendment through a typically lawyerly definition of terms: that the immunity would be limited to acts while in office, prevent a court from acquiring jurisdiction over the person of the ex-president who had become a private citizen, and as such subject to the judicial process. But the court would have no jurisdiction over acts committed while in office, and indeed, at least act ... and so the case would be dismissed. There's no evidence would ever really be immune from suit but cannot be held liable because when it charged to an official act."

In other words, the president would be exempt from being dragged to court, but because every official act was presumed legal, and done every official act was lawful, the courts would have had to automatically dismiss any charges against any former president.

Certainly there are EDI, veterans subsidy to extend Mr. lawyer of one of the benefits of a parliamentary—and so volunteer to duplicate what they did in 1986, or at least to do the legal wrangling to ensure immunity for her. You could easily draft an amendment within a one-year extension of every-one's current.

But there are new proposals for amendments are larger than any matters pending before congress. That Speaker Prospero Nograles and Rep. Luis Villafuerte claim to be lobbying for two different resolutions suggests Lakas CMD, and leaders of the President's party Kampi, are rather less different than they claim. Villafuerte's resolution, Villafuerte is on the side of parliament, too—but with guarantees for incumbents, the President, and for its leadership to begin supreme.

Midnight talk

THE CLOCK HAD JUST STRUCK 12, BUT THERE I WAS, still sitting at the dining table with our adults. Three of them were drinking dark beer, the others, black coffee.

It was a night like any other, except for the fact that it was past midnight (and my bedtime) and I was listening to a lively discussion my parents, aunts and uncles were having. They were talking about many years past, the struggle they had gone through, and the maintenance of their generation.

They were Baby Boomers, the breakthrough kids, the ones with the highest potential. They were born in the 1940s, came of age in the time of the Vietnam War in 1967. And they are said to be the favorite generation of all time.

YOUNG BLOOD

Meg Montesa

We serve as it was what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We encourage young people (the twenty-something and below —Ed.

Among the ones the late John Lennon, Fred McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr made their minds, the time television was commercialized and entered households. Thirties was, according to them, the time of all time.

My father pointed out that they were the ones who made great strides in technology and that they had to go through a lot of adversity. The War had just ended when they were born or when they suffered as they grew up. "In our time, our parents were so strict. We had to be home before 5. We had to help out in the fields during weekends. We had to kneel down to say our prayers for two to three hours. We had to do this, and do that."

The conversation was overflowing with a mixture of laughter, sentiment and even contempt. These adults were talking about things their parents made them do or didn't let them do. They were talking about their rich morals and the values they had and which seem to have been lost nowadays. They were remembering curfews, chores, beliefs and values they had when they were still "your age."

"You kids are so lucky nowadays," said an aunt. "You don't have to work as hard, and you kids are so spoiled. Back in our days..."

And there I sat, taking it all in, listening to their alcoholic banter and laughter, and both their extremely profound ideas and the extremely foolish ones. I was not drinking anything and I was thinking straight. I had half a mind to leave the table and go to bed, but decided to just sit there like a mute while a pair of ice wanted to disagree, fight for our generation and address each of their concerns. I wanted to say that our generation does work hard and that we are so not spoiled.

Surprise, surprise, I have finally mustered the confidence to speak in behalf of my generation. I had taken no offense to how they praised their own generation, but I wasn't happy with the comparisons they made with mine and the sorely mean ideas they had of us. They have grown enough suffering and hunger and a large pile of problems, but to say that our generation is having it easy isn't true at all.

To them, having all the modern technology makes it very easy for us to handle our problems. Complexities are simplified by science. We have computers, calculators and heavy machinery to do our work for us. We have it all without having to lift a finger or use an iota of knowledge.

That don't fair from the truth. Yes, we do have technology at our fingertips and yes, we are able to multiply, divide, process and figure out easily the calculations they had trouble with during their time, but that does not mean all our problems are solved. As much as we have answered questions posed to us in the past, we have to face new ones.

Knowledge and science are a mine-headed dragon that grows two more heads when one is cut off, in which we are able to answer one question, a few more emerge, each harder than the previous one. Today, high school students study things that were only taught in college when I was in high school, because of technology, more is expected of us. Our work loads are increased because our professors think we would find it very easy to do normal homework with the use of technology. Accuracy and speed are demanded because we are supposed to be able to find the answers at the touch of a button.

Technology is far from being the answer to all our problems. As we develop the capability to fix the problems in front of us, the next problems get harder, the obstacles grow higher and more and more are expected of us. This is why I disagree that life is easier for us. We are not having an easy time because the load is constantly being raised.

They might be right in their comparing our generation to theirs, but I realized that I didn't need to defend's dragons. I knew that our generation wasn't anything like what they were talking about and although I knew that what they were saying was so wrong, I didn't feel the need to jump into the conversation and prove them all wrong. Actions speak louder than words, and I felt it was unnecessary to argue with them if I couldn't show them they were wrong. Conversations like that will forever be carried out until we do something about it and I'm not talking about defending our generation against the entire war call our parents. I'm talking about actually standing up and getting ourselves away from the television set, laptop and iPod Touch and do more in the real world. Yes, it may sound dreary, but making the world a better place is a lot better than jumping out on junk food and spending hours surfing the Net for the latest craze. I would do anything to prove the adults wrong, but that's not the reason. I'm making a stand. I want to do this because years from now I would not like to be the adult who is complaining about the younger generation and how flawed it is. I want to be part of the generation that puts a stop to all of this and make everything better so that I don't have to grow old complaining about the next generation.

I am not a Baby Boomer. I wasn't born a few years after the War and I am not very familiar with John, Paul, George and Ringo. I am spoiled, dependent and stubborn and I can prolly say the same thing about others of my generation. But that is not all that I am or all I'll have to offer. I belong to a generation full of creative ideas and intelligence. We constantly search for meaning in a world filled with people who are attached to their cell phones, Facebook, Friendster and camera range. We navigate our way through all the courses required of us to offer and, from time to time, surprise ourselves by discovering new ways to improve the world we are living in.

Twenty years from now, I will probably be sitting at home, drinking alcohol or coffee after midnight, talking about the young generation with a smile on my face and without a hint of bitterness or spite. Instead, I will marvel at how bright the future seems for the youth and how my generation helped mold them.

Meg Montesa, 17, is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE (An Organization of Philippine Newspapers)

Abandoning all sense of decency and shame

LETTERS

WHAT IS IT ABOUT BEING APPOINTED BY Gloria M. Arroyo that makes her appointees abandon all sense of decency and shame? Judging by the many last-minute controversial doing in government and insult the people's intelligence—running the gamut of the unbelievable to the downright ridiculous—one would think this country is now run by satraps who believe they can fool all the people all the time.

Consider Deputy Executive Secretary Manuel Imbo's attempt to explain away the government's cash "loan" of P500,000 to ZTE. NBN scandal whistle-blower Rodolfo Lozada, or former Philippine National Police Chief Avelino Razon's spin on Lozada's disbursal at the airport, and recently PNP Comptroller Eliseo de la Paz's taking the fall for the Moreno fiasco, and former agriculture undersecretary "Jun Jun" Balisacan's even more outdated public display of shameless devotion to President by saying, "We would like to presume these people are still possessed of some modicum of common sense, in their heart of hearts, they know they were lying through their teeth, yet there they were flaunting their idiocy on national TV.

And all for what? To save GMA who, should the normal course of events prevail after the hopefully-steps down in 2010, would be facing multiple indictments for massive plunder? Is she really worth taking all the public humiliation for?

—ATTY. E. VILLANUEVA, Esq.,
elyvee0001@yahoo.com

Society pages play up extravagance amid hunger

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, THE SOCIETY pages of the daily newspapers (including the Inquirer), I get scandalized by the colored pictures of ladies' Manila Luncheon "800"—the idle rich, the old rich, the nouveau riche, the filthy rich, the extravagant rich, the social climbers—all dressed to the nines, perfumed, coiffured, dolled up, weighed down by fabulous jewels, grandly attired in expensive gowns, having a grand time. I have problems when I see shoes or imported whooping it up and merrymaking with reckless abandon till the wee hours of the morning as if there is no tomorrow—seemingly unmindful of, unconcerned about and impervious to the intolerable suffering of the jobless and hungry living in considerable disarray around them, just outside and around the rich's gated, heavily guarded, exclusive plush villages and subdivisions.

Even as our country is going through difficult times, and millions of our people are living in abject poverty and destitution, these "socialites," for the slightest of reasons, would go into a bacchanalian orgy flaunting and squandering their wealth and affluence. The conspicuous, even sinful, display of wealth certainly does not deserve admiration. These extravagances does not deserve the attention and admiration of the rest of society. And I am appalled that their flamboyant lifestyle, vanity and braggadocio are being played up in the media. There is candidness, unpretending of wealth in the rich's efforts at solving our myriad problems. Should not Congress, especially the Senate, which anyway has a penchant for investigating practically anything under the sun, take a serious look at this lavish and extravagant display of wealth—"in aid of legislation"?

I like to think that, indeed, these "spoiled brats" in our country should be lectured about that supposedly obscure provision in the Civil Code reciting that: "Thoughtless extravagance is oppressive for pleasures or display during years of mourning can justly be regarded as lacking delicacy and should be stopped by the courts at the instance of any government or private charitable institution." (Art. 2)

The trouble with this statutory provision is that it does not allow just any person to initiate the proper court action to restrain violators. It is relevant to ask anyway: Does this provision not impose a limit to the "freedom of expression" of these socialites in the sense that it prohibits them from "expressing" their thoughtless extravagance?

—MARIANO C. FERNANDEZ JR.,
3421 Carin St., Makati City

DSWD's 'Pantawid' not a dole program

THE REPORT TO THE PEOPLE (THE TITLE), "Three generals with an axe," (P-A7 09/26/08 Inquirer, 13/32/08) in the story reporter Leila B. Salaverria quoted Deputy Minority Leader Samir Dimpas as saying that the 2009 budget was an "election budget."

The story also mentioned that "the increase in the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development would go to the President's dole-out programs that provide cash grants to the poor."

May we humbly clarify that the P5-billion increase in the budget of DSWD will go to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) which is expected to cover 1,000 households. We would like to emphasize that the 4Ps is not a dole program because the beneficiaries must meet specific conditions before they can get and continue to receive cash assistance. These conditions include sending children to schools and health centers for preventive and check-ups. Parents must attend family planning sessions, mothers' classes and parent effectiveness service sessions, and prepare and get pre- and post-natal services and their delivery must be attended by skilled birth attendants. If the beneficiaries fail to meet these conditions, their cash grants will be suspended or they will be dropped from the program.

The 4Ps combines social assistance with investments in human capital. Likewise, the program complements the national government's efforts to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on universal primary education, reduced poverty and hunger as well as child mortality, improved maternal health and promotion of gender equality.

—EDUARDO V. OLIVERIO,
director, Social Marketing Service,
Department of Social Welfare
and Development,
389 Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

GSIS' NSO project meant to protect fund

IT IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE THAT our pensioners, Veronica C. Castro, writes the letter to express how inconvenienced she felt with the Government Service Insurance System's request that she visit us and clarify that she is not the person whose name appears in the National Statistics Office death records.

She hope, however, that she gives this GSIS project a notice of good faith. Far from her misimpression that this is born of volunteerism or motive to harbor pensioners, the GSIS embarked on this program to protect the interests of beneficiaries.

The business of the GSIS is to take care of the pension fund of its members. As such, it must make sure that only qualified pensioners get their benefits from that fund. The GSIS is compelled to plug all leakages in the fund. Allowing ineligible persons to receive pension benefits starts, to get money from the GSIS fund is a breach of fiduciary.

With this in mind, the GSIS cannot be limited as "e-mail and output" if it, after receiving NSO death records, asks pensioners whose names appear in the same records to report to the GSIS to clarify the matter. The GSIS cannot be "e-mail and output" if it assumes that the NSO death records may be correct after a pensioner does not report or even contact the GSIS a full 30 days after receiving this request. The GSIS is not "e-mail and output" if it decides to withhold a pension because there is a very probable basis to show that a pensioner may be dead and someone who has access to the deceased pensioner's record may be using GSIS money. We have to plug every leak.

Still, we want to inform our pensioners affected by the NSO verification process that they should report to the GSIS only if they are still able to do so. If they cannot, either by reason of sickness or disability, they can still claim receiving GSIS office so that the GSIS can set up appointment and visit them right where they are.

As for the annual renewal of active status, pensioners can comply with this by using any CLIQUE kiosk installed in branches of banks all around the country. They can also enroll in the GSIS Voice Activated Processing System, or IVAPS, in their servicing office so that their subsequent renewals can be made by simply calling up the GSIS. They need not go to their servicing GSIS office.

—ELIAS VASHCHENKO,
vice president,
Public Relations and Communications Office,
Government Service Insurance System

Dureza's prayer revealed gang's true intentions

DO PEOPLE NOT INSPIRED TO HEAR WHAT Press Secretary Jesse Dureza said in that opening prayer which gave us a foreboding of what a gang of plundering thieves, masquerading as public servants, plans beyond June 30, 2010. Dureza's remarks are naturally his mother's statement for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who was hard to hide her true intentions and the megalomaniacal ambitions that she and her family newly-share.

"We are there when the many wanted to be so why go?" would seem to be the family's word now that they are enjoying power and all the opportunities that go with it.

Dureza's tongue may have slipped by saying ahead what probably but least and must in her to see circle of power think. They would not want to let go of the luxuries of power and influence.

Now, less than 48 hours in the hands of these "silly," new Senate president Juan Ponce Enrile (who once espoused [illegible] and [illegible] saying this country's "Cagayan nasi ngo") and vain, thin plastic matter of a House of Representatives where a great majority of its members are for sale, there is no more stumbling block left to thwart Ms. Arroyo's ambition of ruling for life.

And hardly, despite his advanced age, is just a couple of steps away from realizing his ultimate desire of being president one day, which may yet be realized in his lifetime.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, composed of a few (10) honorable ones who feel or have shown some degree of independence, will be filled next year with more Arroyo appointees one or more of whom may step to low and hold the "pen and," to prevent her from issuing "fiats."

God have mercy on this benighted land.

—RAMON BAUTISTA,
Cell Bayugo@aol.com

E-mail: ... Website: ...

Across the NATION

... Assistant Editor Tony Sergania

Lawyers hit 'Koreanization' of RP

Alarm raised at SC seminar on rising number of Koreans' dummy firms

BAGUIO CITY—LAWYERS ATTENDING A Supreme Court-mandated legal seminar here took to task the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its alleged failure to act on the proliferation of corporations suspected to be dummies of Koreans.

The lawyers said there is a growing public clamor for the investigation of corporations formed by local incorporators who actually financed the venture, primarily Korean businessmen.

This is in violation of the anti-dummy law and the constitutional prohibition on the ownership of lands by foreigners, they said.

The lawyers, who attended the mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) at Hotel Supreme here, tagged the problem as "the creeping Koreanization of the Philippines."

But the SEC told the lawyers that the lawyers backed up the wrong tree since the power to prosecute dummy corporations belonged to the Department of Justice.

"The DOJ has jurisdiction over violations of the anti-dummy law since they are classified as criminal offenses," lawyer Annie Yuson, SEC director for the Cordillera, Ilocos and Cagayan regions, said.

What the SEC can do, she said, is to check and monitor if registration corporations complied with their articles of incorporation.

"We can file administrative cases against erring corporations en route to the cancellation of their registration," she said.

She said the SEC has limited powers and thus, a criminal case filed at the DOJ could hasten the SEC's administrative proceedings against dummy corporations.

She said the SEC had blacklisted bogus corporations purportedly put up by Korean dummies but the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) should conduct the probe.

The Korean topic was an offshoot of former Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Mogdis's discussion on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement and the baseline bill in relation to the definition of the country's national territory.

Magdiwang said the Koreans issue was an "expansion that has become alarming."

Baguio is one of the cities in the country that boast a lot of Korean schools, restaurants and other businesses, which grew over the years, mainly due to the influx of Korean students who wanted to learn English here.

But lawyer Gale Reyes, a former bar topnotch, said the SEC appeared to have been lax in its campaign to stop dummy corporations from reaping land.

"From San Nicolas, Pangasinan to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, these corporations had acquired beachfronts, home lots and residential lots," he said. "What is the SEC doing?" he asked. Delmar Carino, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SCHOOL GUARD
Members of the Army's 43rd Infantry Battalion stand guard outside a high school in Pinoso, Lanao del Norte as classes resume following an evacuation and attack on civilians by rogue Moro guerrillas.

Peace caravan from Baguio arrives in Mindanao

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Mindanao peace advocates welcomed the arrival of the peace caravan here with a brief march and assembly around the city yesterday.

Participants in the People's Caravan for Peace and Soldier's Welfare began to finally land in Mindanao after a week-long journey that began in Baguio City and is expected to end in Zamboanga City.

"I am glad to be back in Mindanao. Hopefully what I am doing will make the situation in our place much better," said Ahmad Misna, an evacuee from Maciumpano in Magpetchanan who joined the caravan.

Misna had been speaking in various public forums organized by the caravan to give a first hand account on the effects of war in his community.

"The objective of this caravan is to denounce war, expose it and raise awareness over what is happening in Mindanao, especially the impact of war on its people," said Gus Miclat, executive director of the Initiatives for International Dialogue, one of the convenors of Duyog Silakbat-an/Mindanaons that launched the caravan.

Duyog Mindanao is a group seeking to call attention to the humanitarian crisis and call for the cessation of hostilities in Mindanao.

Miclat said his group decided to launch the caravan amid public opinion grossly apathetic to the war and ignorant of the roots of conflict in Mindanao.

"There were people who were shocked to know that over 600,000 evacuees had come from only one town in Maguindanao, that is Datu Piang. Now they realize the magnitude of the problem. The evacuees brought the war to them," Miclat said.

The caravan is also calling for an immediate ceasefire and the resumption of peace negotiations between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the government.

The caravan made a brief stop to greet farmers camping out at the Court of Appeals here to protest aerial spraying. Next stop was a forum at the Xavier University where Misnad and other evacuees from Maguindanao spoke before hundreds of students on the impact of war.

From Cagayan de Oro, the caravan will split into two groups. One group will proceed to Surigao, Butuan to meet with the Higaonon farmers who walked from their village in Miaburong to win back their land, and drive to Davao City for a public forum. Another group will pass by Manuel City and visit the evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

A big peace rally and forum are expected to greet the caravan in Zamboanga City where it arrives this Friday. Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

Salvage of sunken cargo ship completed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—OPERATIONS TO salvage the wreck of a cargo ship that sank off Antique was completed on Tuesday, according to the Coast Guard.

Commodore Wilfred Michel, Coast Guard District Commander in Western Visayas, said the operations included setting up the cargo ship MV Ocean Hope into parts and transporting them to shore.

However, divers have failed to locate at least 80 sealed drums containing at 10 metric tons of the toxic substance toluene diisocyanate (TDI), which could have been drawn off the vessel shortly before it sank.

The Coast Guard called off the search operations for the missing toxic cargo after more than a month.

The owner of the sunken vessel, the Oceanic Commodore Liners Inc. (OCLI), also opted to stop the search for the missing cargo because of risks to divers going to deeper areas.

TDI is a main ingredient in the production of flexible polyurethane foam and is used in manufacturing synthetic leather, coated fabrics, paints and adhesives. The chemical can cause severe irritation of the skin and eyes, and harm the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems if inhaled or ingested.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas earlier issued a warning against possible contamination of the coastal marine substance through inhalation, ingestion or direct contact. They have advised residents not to open the container vans and drums if they are recovered.

But the OCLI said that TDI does not endanger marine life, citing a study it commissioned.

The ship owner had offered a P1,000,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of container vans with the toxic cargo.

Michel said he would terminate the operations officially on Thursday after the clearing operations and loading of equipment.

Salvage teams have cut up a total of 775 tons of wreck from the sunken ship.

The Ocean Hope sank due to strong winds and rough seas at noon of June 27 near Binirayan Island, around 9.6 km from the coast of Culasi, while en route from Manila to Iloilo City.

Ship captain Carlo Chu and another crew member died while two others remain missing.

SAWN off portions of the sunken vessel MV Ocean Hope are loaded in a cargo ship by members of the salvage operation team.

NEWSBRIEFS

PORAC, PAMPANGA

4 dead in SCTEx mishap

FOUR persons, including two Army soldiers, died on Tuesday night when a sports utility vehicle collided with an Army truck at the Porac, Pampanga side of the newly built Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

The fatalities were identified as Dr. Ma. Teresita Escopete Bermudez, Apalonia Bermudez' sister, and Pfc. Jason Raje de and Mayo Cabagulan, both of the Army's 3rd Infantry Battalion.

Two other passengers in the Army truck, Pfc. Alan Pranoza and Pvt. Lorenzo Bautigan, were injured. They were brought to the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City (now Dr. Raphael Pangilinan Memorial, Pampanga, Bulletin) on Wednesday.

Initial investigation showed the speeding Mitsubishi Outlander hit the Army truck when it tried to overtake it on Km 80 of the SCTEx in Barangay Mancatian in Porac town.

The victims, both heading west, were approaching the Pasig-Potrero Bridge. The soldiers were returning to the battalion's camp in Batangas City.

Sandra Chipio, Inquirer Central Luzon

DIGOS CITY

Trader, son killed

A businessman and his 11-year-old son died, while his wife and two other children were injured in what appeared to be a massacre on Sunday night.

Police identified the fatalities as Reden Palarca, 40, and his son Christopher Loyd, 11.

Reden was shooting from backyard buggery in Barangay Kawayan in Sta. Cruz town when at least six men wearing bonnets emerged and shot him several times, police said.

The suspects fled at the house before fleeing on motorcycles.

Doctors at the Davao Medical Center declared the victim's wife and two children safe from danger.

Elda F. Aparra, Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY

3 wounded in ambush

A COUNCILOR of Barangay Malabuang, Lanao del Sur and two family members were wounded in an ambush six months hospital following Monday's ambush by two gunmen aboard a motorcycle along Jose Lim Rd. Mel Flavio.

The shooting occurred in the heels of the renewed campaign against loose firearms by police and military authorities.

Police said Barangay Kapasad Kadingan Amporan, his wife and 5-year-old daughter were riding a service vehicle on their way to home to Lanao when one of the suspects fired at them.

Police confiscated close to 100 unlicensed firearms in the recovered Ilyias Kapitan drive that began in August.

Charlie C. Samaco, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY

Police chief axed

BARELY eight months as city police director here, Senior Supt. Lorenzo Ibrahim has been relieved from his post for still unknown reasons.

"I have not been informed of the circumstances of his relief," Mayor Celso Lobregat told reporters as he emphasized he was satisfied by Ibrahim's performance in maintaining peace and order in this city.

Lobregat said he was informed by Chief Supt. Angel Bongbon, Zamboanga Peninsula police chief, about the relief.

Sungalo said the order for Ibrahim's relief "came from national headquarters." Ibrahim could not be reached for comment.

John E. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET

METRO

MARKET!MARKET!

Bonifacio, Global City

Pre-Christmas SALE

Up to 70% off

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

Assorted Curtains
Reg. price P570
250 /pc

Ladies shoes
50% off

Skechers
men's shoes
up to 70% off

Selected Men's Denims
199

Selected Ladies Pants Capri
99

Selected Ladies Blouses
up to 50% off

BODY Slender
Now P1,899

up to 70% off
US Bed sheets & comforter

Valance
99

Artemis Bench
Now P1,995

Rolex Drawer 5L
Now P799

Bath Towels

Vellux Blanket

50% off

Rubber Matting
Now 3 for P79

Cool Zone
BUY 1 TAKE 1

BUY 1 GET 1
Uratex Foam w/ Pompex

Wardrobe 2-door
Now P2,995

Portable Stove
Now P569

Supermarket Deals!

Whole Dressed Chicken
P1/kg

Grapes
P99/kg

PUREFOODS TJ Hotdogs
50% off

Sugar
P5/kg

RoadBot
Now P999

Conqueror Racing Car
Now P2,599

P50

Great Deals Great Savings!

Chafing Dish
P650

Dish Master
P1,119

Wish you a Car
Nov. 3 - Jan. 30, 2009
Buy 6 Cars
2 CAPTIVA
4 OPTRA
24 AVEO

DOUBLE

Shop with your MRC Card and earn double points from Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

LEGAZPI • LUCENA • MARKET! MARKET!

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

ANCESTRAL LAND TITLES

Mangyan folk hold on to GMA promise

By Madonna Virola
City of Calapan

LIBRADA "BADANG" ISIDRO has had the rare opportunity of meeting President Macapagal-Arroyo twice.

The 61-year-old mother of five and leader of the Alangan Mangyan in Naujan town at the foot of Mount Halcon in Oriental Mindoro, had to struggle with her oxygen when she first met the President in Malacañang on Oct. 8.

"I just thought of the urgency of our problems with land. I thought of her as our mother, a mother of the poor indigenous peoples," Isidro said. She serves the indigenous people through her work for the Mangyan Mission, a Church-based nongovernmental organization.

Isidro's second encounter with Ms Arroyo was during the Lord Peace and Security Assembly for Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan at Filipinas Hotel in Calapan City on Oct. 26. The gathering was part of the national government's response to the clamor of local governments and various stakeholders for support to their peace-building initiatives.

Taking advantage of the President's presence, more than 3,500 nonmissing leaders and advocates formed a human chain along J.P. Rizal Street to dramatize their plea for action against large-scale mining that, they said, encroached on Mangyan ancestral land.

Many of them had marched more than 400 kilometers from their villages to the different towns to be at the capital during the presidential visit.

A petition paper presented by the clergy and leaders of people's organizations expressed concern over the continued exploitation for nickel by Inter Resources and Agdalang Mining.

Titles

Isidro was pleased when she met with the President the second time. She brought up the problems about her people's certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADTs) and expected that the documents were forthcoming during the visit.

As riders were announced, however, Isidro said she "was happy that the President listened to us and ordered her officers to speed up the processing of the titles."

She was ready to understand that the awarding of CADTs to the Tadyawan Mangyan would come four days later, in Occidental Mindoro. The titles would mean land ownership for a people not used to legal documents covering ancestral land that they had long supposed to be communally owned.

The CADT is issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). It recognizes the tribal group's legal claim to its territory and gives it practically the same rights as those enjoyed by private property owners.

Frustrating

NCIP provincial officer Ivy Lana, however, clarified that the certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) is only a formal recognition of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

With the passage of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act in 1997, ancestral domain claims are certified by the CENR are now qualified for direct application to a CADT.

Early in November, Pompong Kadlos, an Mangyan Mangyan and coordinator of the Kalipunagan para sa Lupang Ninuno, a tribal association in Occidental Mindoro, would only describe as frustrating the process of securing the CADTs that the President promised to give them during her Oct. 16 visit.

The Tadyawan Mangyan in Pinamalayan and Gloria towns now await the titles for about 4,500 hectares of land that will benefit more than 1,000 people, Kadlos said. Their CADTs would evolve the culmination of more than five years of application process.

In this area, the Mangyan use boundary landmarks being pulled out by some Tagalogs, "maybe due to dislike or ignorance of our rights," he explained.

Lack of certification

Asked why there were no land titles yet, Lana said the certifications from the Land Registration Authority and the DENR have not yet been completed.

On Nov. 18, the Department of Agrarian Reform submitted its certification to the NCIP. Salomé del Villa, DAR chief of operations, said her office found 21 landholdings (27% had to Pinamalayan and Gloria covered by certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) which were issued to beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"There could be more claims against the CADCs. It's now up to the NCIP to act on the conflict," De Villa said.

Her concern should not be a problem, Lana said, because they recognize the previously issued property rights before their effectivity.

Asked when the Mangyan people would finally possess their CADTs, Lana reasoned that it depended on their compliance with organization requirements, particularly from the DENR. "Maybe early December," he said.

Despite her doubts with the mining firms and the longer task toward the awarded titles, Isidro said she had gladly taken the road.

"What keeps my courage despite the threats on my life is when the President said in Malacañang that she loved us, the reason for her promoting the lives."

LIBRADA "Badang" Isidro speaks during an assembly gathering in Calapan City.

MANGYANS protesting advocates await the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Different personalities.
One common paper.

Varied and engaging sections in vivid images and layout, relevant information, expert and informed opinion and balanced reporting - all these connect with our readers.

Read CDN and make smarter decisions.

For advertising needs, call (032) 2327618 CEBU or (02) 8951510 MANILA

In The Know

THERE are seven CADCs for conversion to CADTs in Oriental Mindoro, covering more than 148,000 hectares of land:

- 94,031 ha (Rangyan-Iraya)
- 16,000 ha (Tadyawan)
- 21,000 (Tadyawan)
- 38,031 (Alangan)
- 33,334 (Iraya)

There are two direct applications to CADT covering more than 41,000 has.:

- 32, 151 has (Hanunuo)
- 9,000 has (Alangan, excluding those by the Tadyawan who are being assisted by the Mangyan Tribal Churches Association.)

Expected beneficiaries for both pending CADCs for CADT conversion and direct applications in CADTs are more than 22,000 Mangyan.

One title covering 5,701 has in Puerto Galera was awarded in 2004.

Late SPORTS

San Mig shows Air21 who's boss

By Mayong R. Castillo

SAN MIGUEL COACH JIMMY ALAPAG SWORE THAT THEY weren't even thinking of Air21 last night, their mindset being just to come out of the Gagarot and do all the right things.

Apparently, they did everything right.

The Beermen marshmelled the Express early and were on to blow Air21 off the court for a 98-78 victory that not only snapped San Miguel's three-game losing streak but also affirmed a personal victory for the first wound of the 32nd Philippine Cup eliminations.

"We did not even talk about it," Singsingkong told scribes later on, when asked whether he used their double-overtime victory in the first round as a motivational tool. "This was the first time that we didn't talk of an opponent as much as we used to.

"The motivation wasn't really the opponent, but what we have to do to play the game the way it was supposed to be played," he added. "When we come out of the dugout, we never were actually looking to win but to just do the right things."

In the second game, Talk 'N' Text beat Sta. Lucia, 104-102, to tie its record at 6-6.

Relentless on both ends, the Beermen gave the Express no breaks in the second period, limiting Air21 to just nine points to win a 28-20 edge at the end of the first into an imposing 51-20 lead bristling into the third period.

The Statesmen led by as many as 25 points late in the second and allowed the Express to come no closer than 14 points the rest of the way improving to 6-4 before a modest-sized Araneta Coliseum crowd.

Air21 lost for the first time in four games, its last loss being that bitterly disputed setback at the hands of the Beermen which Express team manager Lito Alvarez is now threatening to elevate all the way to the Games and Amusements Board.

The Beermen drove the Express out of their comfort zone so bad that they posted their second most lopsided victory in the tournament while holding Air21 to a conference-low output.

Coming into the game, Air21 was the only team in the tournament that has scored at least 90 points in every game, ran productive low being 92.

The Express, who dropped to 4-6 and out of a third place tie, have also scored at least 100 points in all but three of their first 13 games.

Jay Washington scored 21 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and had six assists in leading the Beermen who got all 12 men, except Santiago Ilesan, to score.

Rookie Bonbon Custodio surprised 16 points, while Mick Pennisi came off the bench to chip in with 12 markers and 11 rebounds.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola and Barangay Ginebra put similar two-game winning streaks on the line today when they collide at the Cuneta Astrodome in their Group A Philippine Cup encounter set at 8 p.m.

TEAM PHILIPPINES: Described as quicker and steadier from the outside than last year's squad, the newly formed national quintet is presented Tuesday night at Bonifacio High School by (front row, from left) PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios, Mon Dichoso, country marketing manager of official outfitter Nike Philippines, and head coach Yeng Guiao.

Final Game

SAN MIGUEL (98)—Washington 21, Custodio 16, Pennisi 12, Yeo 10, Fernandez 9, Dandan 8, Wilkinson 8, Cruz 5, Gonzales 4, Reyes 2, Calaguio 2, Ilesan 0.

AIR21 (78)—Sachse 17, Quinahan 17, Intal 11, David 10, De Granges 8, de Ocampo 8, Cruz 5, Custodio 0, Villanueva 0, Imperial 0, Dela Rama 0, Mirasol 0.

Quarters: 28-20, 51-40, 74-60, 98-78

(-)

MAGUINDANAO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Buluan, Maguindanao

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cooperative intends to procure the following for the construction of 15 Substations within the Provinces of Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan:

	Substation Capacity	
1.	10 MVA	69 Kilovolts (kV)
2.	5 MVA	69 Kilovolts (kV)
3.	1.5 MVA	69 Kilovolts (kV)

The Invitation to Bid is open to Filipino citizens/corporations or associations duly licensed by the Philippine government, organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines and authorized to engage in the business of the above mentioned project.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from MEC-CAR and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be issued upon presentation by the prospective bidder of his authorized representative.

The MEC-CAR will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on December 5, 2002 at 1:00 PM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 1:00 PM on December 17, 2002. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
3. Surety Bond	One and a half percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on December 17, 2002, at 1:01 PM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or his representative who chooses to attend at the address below.

The MEC-CAR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Persons:
Lucio E. Arrogante, Head, BAC Secretariat or
Jerome T. Garduque, Member, BAC Secretariat
Maguindanao Regional Office – CAR
P.O. Box 4025, Buluan, Maguindanao
Tel. no. 064-600-1xx, 064-2 Buluan, 064-4025

(Sgd.) DOMINGO A. GUEVARA
BAC Chairperson

Express seek GAB help as protest plea fails

By Mayong R. Castillo

AIR21 LOST ITS APPEAL TO the PBA board by a vote yesterday and said it will take its case to the Games and Amusement Board, marking, if ever, the first time that the government agency will be made a part in making a crucial league decision.

A source privy to what happened during the board meeting held yesterday at the Pen office in Libis confirmed that the Express headed one vote shy of the required five that they needed to overturn the decision of commissioner Rennold "Sonny" Barrios.

Barrios had junked Air21's protested 120-118 double-overtime loss to San Miguel a couple of weeks back, and dissatisfied with how the commissioner acted, Air21 team manager Lito Alvarez elevated his appeal to the board.

Air21 needed five of the seven votes yesterday and got four, though the source did not mention which team voted for what.

As parties to the protest, Air21 and San Miguel were not allowed to vote. Chair Joaquin Trillo abstained for Alaska in the absence of a tie and Purefoods does not have a vote.

In a press conference, the PBA yesterday said "there is no need to GAB on the merits of whether the protest of Air21 is valid or not."

"The board affirmed in its special meeting (yesterday) that the decision of the commissioner in game-related issues is final and unappealable," the statement also said.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force Corporate Operating Budget (COB) intends to apply the sum of P 4,676,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to cover the cost for the procurement of Security Services for one (1) year (2003 to 31 12 03). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The PAFCOB now invites bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of Security Services for one (1) year. Delivery of the goods shall be within 15 days after the receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, viz:

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part 2 (IRR-2) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to pre-qualification per Title II (A. 12B). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, viz: "The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall submit to the post-qualification stage in order to verify, determine and declare whether the said bidder has the legal, technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who can demonstrate in such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PAFCOB and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be issued upon presentation by the prospective Bidder of his authorized representative.

The PAFCOB will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on December 5, 2002 at 10:00 AM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 9:00 AM on December 17, 2002. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms:

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	(Not applicable)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
3. Surety Bond	One and a half percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on December 17, 2002 at 9:01 AM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or his representative who chooses to attend at the address below.

The PAFCOB reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Persons:
Lucio E. Arrogante, Head, BAC Secretariat or
Jerome T. Garduque, Member, BAC Secretariat
Philippine Air Force – CAR
P.O. Box 4025, Buluan, Maguindanao
Tel. no. 064-600-1xx, 064-2 Buluan, 064-4025

(Sgd.) DOMINGO A. GUEVARA
BAC Chairperson

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified individuals and entities to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Nature of Project/ Brief Description	Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of the following Airline Equipment at the Security Plant Complex, Quezon City, per VEP Center & Mint, specifications enclosed:	
Item No.	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	2 units Heavy Duty Belt X-Ray Machine	P 5,000,000.00
2	1 unit Cargo Baggage with Simulator (Min.)	500,000.00
3	1 unit 3-Deck Walk Through Metal Detector (MTD)	1,500,000.00
4	1 unit Hand Held Metal Detector (HMD)	3,000,000.00
5	1 unit Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)	1,000,000.00
6	1 unit Explosive Vapor Detector (EVD)	1,500,000.00
7	1 unit Explosive Bomb Blanket	500,000.00
8	1 unit Explosive Disposal Kit	500,000.00
9	1 lot Fire Protection System with all accessories	500,000.00
	Delivery Period: within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after receipt of a copy of the approved contract	

Prospective bidders must have undertaken a similar requirement/contract and completed them satisfactorily; submitted by at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the item to be bid. If bidding for several items, the prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement/contract and completed them satisfactorily corresponding to at least 50% of the item with the highest ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening is with the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall open non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Prequalification of the contract is not allowed in this procurement.

All applications shall be in Eligibility Statement and Contracting Bid Security, Performance Security, the Bidding Documents(s), Evaluation Criteria, Bids specifications and issuance of invitation shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on 27 November 2002 (from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
2. Site Inspection	2:00 PM, December 2002 (from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 PM)
3. Pre-bid Conference	27 November 2002, 10:00 PM, (BAC)
4. Opening of Bids	10 January 2003, 2:00 PM, (BAC)
5. BAC Evaluation	Three days or in accordance with the prescribed process stipulated in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available and to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 or 1.00% of the Bid/Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), whichever is higher.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or abstain from awarding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no guarantee that a contract will be awarded as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.
Chairman

The Philippine Society of Otolaryngology -Head and Neck Surgery, Inc.

52nd Annual Convention

Dusit Thani Manila, Makati City, Philippines
November 28 – December 01, 2008

Theme: "A Clinical Congress on Sleep n' Beauty"

PSO-HNS Board of Trustees 2008

GIL M. VICENTE, MD
President

JOSEFINO S. HERNANDEZ, MD
Vice-President

TERESA PAZ S. PASCUAL, MD
Secretary

ANTONIO H. CHUA, MD
Treasurer

WILLIAM J. LIM, MD
Auditor

Trustees
ALEXANDER C. CABANGCAL, MD
BENJAMIN T.S. CAMPOMANES JR., MD
CHARLOTTE M. CHONG, MD
ROSALITO S. DELA CRUZ, MD
JOSELITO M. JASON, MD
JACOB S. MATUBIS, MD
EDWARD S. QUEVARA JR., MD
Immediate Past President

REMIGIO I. JAVIER, MD
President, PSO-HNS

Guests of Honor:

KJ Lee, MD
Director-for-International Affairs American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS)

Prof. Wolf Mann
Chairman Dept. of ENT, HNS
Marien Hospital, Germany

Mukul Mashruwala
Joseamin Mullen
Prasoopanee Rassanasen
Michael Shupp
Rolando Tolentino

Sung Nian Wen
Dolf Yeo Hong
Hisashi Tsukuda
Kyoshiro Chonabe
Sadhna Hussain
Lohmann Stefan

Local Speakers:

Clarence Ross
Antonio Aguilar
Keith Ronald Aguilera
Jaime Anthony Alcaraz
Benjamin Cuk Bonnevie Jr.
Salvadora Cachapero
Herminia Chavez
Ephraim Chavez-Dela Cruz
Armando Fernandez
Melissa Bethany Cruz
Joselito David
Arnaldo Lavin
Ruth Dimayacyac
Enrico Donato
Manuel Fernandez Jr.
Ma. Clarissa Fortuna
Renato Lucas Bolong-Chua
Ramon Gonzalez
Evangeline Hamilog
Josefina Hernandez

Melissa Hernandez
Lean Lagrosas
Jose Francisco Lapeña Jr.
Wilson Lim
Lorenzo Alberto Lim Jr.
Ma. Gabriz Mel Lipata
Edgar Mendiola
Georgina Miraya
Ferdinand Pambuan
Rodolfo Pangan
Teresa Paz Pascual
Alfredo Pineda Jr.
Ma. Vina Reyes-Quintos
Edgardo Rodriguez Jr.
Francis Roldan
Michael Marcus Sala
Dee Talavera
Dulce Pilar Tan
Mandeep Virdi
Ed Vicente
Oscar Villafuerte Jr.
Mario Antiver Zuñiga

Other Invited Faculty:

Foreign Speakers:

Victor Wei-Wen
Hsueh Yu Tan
Sun-Kwon Choung
Sangyeob Kelly Chae
Yan Gilbert

Paul Fagan
Christian Lou Bonnaud
Lukas Rotting
Ulf Kingsten
Leong Jen Li

Organizing Committee

GIL M. VICENTE, MD
Honorary Chair

ALEXANDER C. CABANGCAL, MD
Overall Chair

DANILO G. PEREJETE, MD
Secretary General

Scientific
JOSELITO F. DAVID, MD
Co-Chair for Clinical EENT
MICHAEL ALEXANDER A. SARIPE, MD
AGNES T. SENGLI-LA, MD
Co-Chair for OHNS
RONALDO ROBERTO A. MATTELLA, MD
KEITH ROBERT A. ANGELARA, MD
Members

ABIGAIL F. MACWILLIAMS
PERSEVERINA, MD
GORAZON G. LAWTER-JOSE, MD
Co-Chair for Facial Plastic Surgery
MARIA L. TALAVERA, MD
Ma. ROSARIO L. PILLAS, MD
OLIVIA C. CAMPOS, MD
LOURDES P. CAPISTRANO, MD
Members

Administration
WILLIAM J. LIM, MD
Chair

Registration
RAMON CHARLES Y. ALOPIA, MD
Chair
DIANA STHEFAN L. ALOPIA, MD
Co-Chair
ANA MARIA M. REYES, MD
PAMELA A. LAGNADA-SAGUIGUIT, MD
ARWIN L. DE JESUS, MD
ARTURO J. OLIVARO JR., MD
Members

Souvenirs Program & Abstract
CHARLOTTE M. CHONG, MD
Chair
RHODORA DEL ROSARIO-CHUANICO, MD
Co-Chair
WILLIAM D. BILLONES, MD
EMMANUEL ANGELO PEREZ, MD
CALAGUIAN, MD
MANUEL S. VILLEGAS JR., MD
Members

Audio & Exhibits
ANTONIO H. CHUA, MD
Chair
DIANA C. CAMPOS, MD
Co-Chair
CECILE THERESA D. TUNAC, MD
EMIL ROMEO J. ALDAVA, MD
ERWIN M. ECLAVEA, MD
HERBERT S. GUTIERREZ, MD
Members

Ways & Means
MA. FITA P. CABANBAN, MD
Chair
GIL M. VICENTE, MD
Co-Chair

Staff Development
JOHN RODOLFO S. SUAN JR., MD
Chair

Publicity
JOSEFINO S. HERNANDEZ, MD
Chair
MANUEL S. PILLERAS JR., MD
MICHAEL M. ROSARIO, MD
GERARDO B. BARCOS, MD
Co-Chairs

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

Warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS) as you hold your 52nd Annual Convention.

For 52 years, the PSO-HNS has provided you with valuable resources and training that enabled you to contribute to the government's healthcare program.

This 5-day convention, with the theme, "A Clinical Congress on Sleep n' Beauty," which will be attended by some 100 foreign and local experts, will surely deepen your competence in the diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders.

I hope that you will continue to build on your present specialization as you join me in my administration's efforts to beat the odds and provide a better future for our people.

May you have a successful convention. Sleep well and *Maganda!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I address the delegates of the 52nd Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Annual Convention. I understand that the main themes to this year's convention are the fix (Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Aesthetic Plastic Surgery). It is apt and creative for the convention to have SLEEP-n' BEAUTY as a battlecry this year.

Many of our countrymen are not familiar with the field of otolaryngology. Although Otolaryngology sounds highly scientific and technical as a field of medical study, this included the most visible parts of the human body, the ears and the nose as well as the most vocal, the throat.

So we cannot remain forever oblivious to otolaryngology such that events like this convention which has information dissemination and enhancement of the knowledge and skills of its participants as the set of objectives are always welcome. Likewise, it is comforting to know that there is a group of dedicated individuals who have the expertise in the caring and treatment of the ailments of these parts of our bodies.

I commend the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery for gathering together the experts in this field and engaging them in a productive discussion on sleep apnea and plastic surgery, healthcare matters so much on our countrymen. That is why healthcare is one of my top legislative priorities. Rest assured that in doing so, you promote healthcare for our people, you can always count on my support.

Congratulations and more power!

LOREN LEGARDA

MESSAGE

Greetings!

It is with great pleasure to invite you to our very distinguished 52nd ANNUAL CONVENTION which features a compilation of scientific, social and special events rolled into one.

Because of my administration's advocacy for an interactive information campaign for Obstructive Sleep Apnea, we have made SLEEP as one of our main themes to help our medical experts gain a degree of enhancing our knowledge and skills in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, we have figured BEAUTY as our other special concern.

SLEEP n' BEAUTY that is our theme!

Special topics of other subspecialties and interest groups will likewise be discussed to make a totally interesting 4-day program that promises to be a dream activity for the otolaryngologists and those interested in ENT.

We have invited no other than Prof. KJ Lee of the USA and Prof Wolf Mann of Germany to grace this occasion. Big names in the field of Medicine and Plastic Surgery will be coming as well. We have assembled exciting social gatherings that will sparkle your stay. Most of all, this will be a time to renew precious friendships with your colleagues of the past, of the present and of the future.

Please feel to browse our website for any updates.

Amidst our rounded SLEEP, we are bound for BEAUTY!

Sincerely yours,

GIL M. VICENTE, MD, FPOHNS
President, PSOHNS

MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

In behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Organizing Committee, welcome to the 52nd Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

This year's convention focuses on Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Facial Plastic Surgery. Hence, the theme, "Sleep n' Beauty." Otolaryngology subspecialty sessions will also cover other disciplines of ENT-Head and Neck Surgery. Foreign and local speakers have been invited to talk about their topics of expertise.

Don't miss out anything from Opening Night till the Fellowship Night. We have prepared a lot of surprises for you.

See you and enjoy The Convention.

ALEXANDER C. CABANGCAL, MD, FPSOHNS
Overall Chair, Organizing Committee

PSO-HNS Secretariat
Unit 2012, 20/F Medical Plaza Ortigas
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 6350783
Tel. No. (632) 6354084
E-mail: pso_hns@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.psohns.org.ph "Society Quality Healthcare"

LANDMARK

DEALS on WHEELS

RAFFLE PROMO

Win any of

4 MITSUBISHI MOTORS MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER

3.0 GLS 4X4

Win any of

4 MITSUBISHI MOTORS MITSUBISHI LANCER

EX 2.0 MX CVT

PLUS THOUSANDS OF GIFT CERTIFICATES TO BE GIVEN AWAY

80 WINNERS

P 20,000.00

WORTH OF GIFT CERTIFICATES EACH

200 WINNERS

P 8,000.00

WORTH OF GIFT CERTIFICATES EACH

IN COOPERATION WITH :

Unilever Coca-Cola Nestlé

THE LANDMARK

MAKATI TRINOMA

Every P500 purchase from Oct. 17, 2008 - April 21, 2009 gives you the chance to win. Get additional raffle coupons for every purchase of any two or more of the participating products. See poster mechanics for details.

Aplus METRO
Editor Boots G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

NOAHS' 'Ampong' Salonga was a gangster in post-war Mandaluyong. He was shot dead in October 1951. He 27-year-old Salonga was gunned down by a small-time goon in Tondo. A movie on Salonga's life catapulted actor Joseph Estrada to fame.
Cyril L. Bonilacio, Jaydee Rimando

Fright night in Retiro

Coed jumps off moving taxi to escape from angry cabbie who robbed and abducted her

By Nancy C. Carvajal

WHEN VALERIE (NOT HER REAL NAME), AN 18-year-old University of Santo Tomas student, got into a taxi cab at 2 a.m. last Saturday after attending a school activity, she had no idea that she would be in for a harrowing ride.

After telling the cab driver to take her to Sta. Mesa Heights in Quezon City where she lived, the young girl settled in the back seat for what she thought would be an uneventful ride.

When the driver of the RCR taxi cab with license plate TWC 897 pulled up in front of her house, Valerie took a P1,000 bill from her bag and handed it to him.

To her surprise, the cab driver instantly dropped the bill on the floor of the vehicle and took off as P20 bills were in packet.

When Valerie asked for her change, the driver protested, telling her that she gave him only P80.

At this point, Valerie's instincts, who was wondering why it was taking too long for her daughter to get out of the cab, came out of the house and asked what the problem was.

The driver promptly assured her that nothing was wrong although Valerie protested, saying that the man had yet to give her her change.

As Valerie started arguing with the driver, her mother went to the barangay hall (town center) across the street to ask for help from the outside (watchmen).

Sped away

As she walked into the barangay hall, the taxi driver suddenly stepped on the gas and sped away with Valerie still inside the vehicle.

The mother immediately ran back in their house, woke up her husband and told him about the incident.

Alarmed, the man got into his car and went after the driver but he failed to find the taxi cab; he went back to their house to pick up his wife.

As the couple were frantically wondering what had happened to their daughter, the mother received a text message from Valerie, telling them that she was in a gas station from across the Loyola Church on Retiro Street.

The couple rushed to the area and found their daughter, with blood on her face, knees and clothes.

VALERIE narrated multiple cuts on her chin and bruises on her hands, knees, face and feet. Lyndon Mayoralgo

After making sure that she could walk, the couple took Valerie back to their house where in between sobs, she narrated her experience.

She told them that after the cab driver drove away with her still in the back seat, he started moving and repeatedly threatened to kill her. At the same time, she kept pleading with him as just let her out of the vehicle.

Grabbed her hand

When the taxi cab reached Nagtahan, Valerie said she opened the door and tried to jump out of the vehicle. The driver, however, reached into the back seat and grabbed her hand. With half of her body out of the car and her hand held by the taxi driver, Valerie said she was forced to run alongside the cab to solicit not to be run over by the vehicle.

When she finally managed to free her hand from the man's grasp, she fell on the pavement and skinned her hands and knees. A truck suddenly appeared but luckily, it swerved and avoided hitting her.

A checkup showed that Valerie sustained multiple cuts on her chin that needed stitches. She also suffered injuries on her knees, face and foot.

Quezon City Police District chief, Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, said that based on their investigation, the taxi cab's license plate was originally issued to an Isuzu jeep belonging to Nicolas and Wilma Perez who live in Laguna, Quezon City.

He added that he has ordered operatives of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detective Unit to probe the case in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

"We are coordinating with other government agencies to get the identity of the taxi driver and arrest him," Gatdula said in the interview.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

THE FATHER of Valerie has these tips to parents and children:

- Tell your kids to be very careful when riding cabs.
- Note down the name and plate number of the taxi he/she rides on.
- Bring extra bills or loose change for the kids.
- Bring extra load in one's cell phone to be able to call for help in case of emergency.

Fireman, guard hurt in 40-minute Quiapo fire

By Tina G. Santos

AT LEAST 15 FAMILIES LOST their homes in a 40-minute fire that hit a residential-commercial area in Quiapo, Manila, yesterday morning.

Fire Officer 2 Louis Fernandez of the Manila Fire District said two people, including Senior Fire Officer 1 Rolando Iserias of the Sampaloc Fire Station, were injured in the fire.

Iserias sustained a cut in the head after a hard object fell on him.

On the other hand, Eduardo Valderon, a security guard, suffered injuries in the left hand as he tried to help put out the fire by opening a fire hydrant, Fernandez said.

The fire, which started around 9:15 a.m., hit the five-door two-story apartment owned by businessman Yen Hing Co on Arlegui Street in Quiapo.

Arson investigators said the fire started at the rear portion of the apartment unit occupied by Emilia Garay and quickly spread to adjacent units which were made of light materials.

Another establishment, La Sta! Square Building, was also partially damaged in the incident.

Estimated damage to property was placed at P1.2 million.

Maximum tolerance for cops

By DJ Yap

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police chief, Director Leopoldo Bataoil, said the police would adopt its customary policy of exercising maximum tolerance toward demonstrators in anticipation of mass protests following the pushing of the impeachment complaint against the President.

He said protests would be allowed in freedom parks or with the proper permit, while those staged with no permits from City Hall would be asked to disperse "peacefully and willingly."

At the weekly Pressandiyan Forum at Club Filipino in San Juan City, Bataoil said the standard policy of maximum tolerance would remain in dealing with protesters.

"We'll accommodate various measures to secure the rallies. We promise, we'll immediately establish linkage between the rally leaders and the organizers if duty here on prevail," he said.

In the same forum, Black and White Movement lead convenor Vicente Romano said his group would discuss what actions to take as a result of the failed impeachment bid.

He said the "reasonably" of protest actions means how Filipinos would be willing to take to the streets since they needed to prepare for the holiday season.

From November 1 to 30, 2008 avail of the perfect Christmas package for you and your family. Grab any Ford vehicle for low downpayment ALL-IN and give your family this perfect holiday treat from any Ford dealership near you. Call 889-FORD (3673) for more details.
Make Every Day Exciting

Getting mining rights a privilege

DAGUPAN CITY—Sen. JOSE DE Venecia accuses President Gloria of bribing him and his colleagues in the House of Representatives to the tune of P100 million in October 2007, so the impeachment case against her would be ruled down.

Most people believe JDV's accusation.

But what they can't swallow is the timing, given the fact that he was booted out of his position as House Speaker at the behest of Malacañang.

If JDV were still in power and in the graces of the Palace, would he have made that accusation?

* * *

But to JDV's accusation believable, coming from a man who has tallied forty grams?

The answers can probably seen in this other question: Why does the US federal bureau of investigation believe a Mafioso who cuts on his buttocks?

* * *

Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo has defended his parents from the charges thrown at them by JDV about the meeting that took place in China between ZTE officials and the First Couple and former Comelec Chair Ben Abalos.

"Come to think of it, if you will really study everything that he (JDV) is saying, GMA and FG did not make any deals. There is nothing wrong with a golf game, with a meeting. No deal was consummated," Mikey said.

What did Mikey mean by "no deal was consummated?"

Doesn't he read the papers or watch the news on TV?

Why did his mother, Gloria, scrap the ZTE-NBN deal if it was "not consummated?"

* * *

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

It has been reported that the Arroyo administration gave ZTE Corp. mining rights to gold-rich Mt. Diwalwal and surrounding areas in the Compostela Valley.

Why is the Chinese firm given that privilege when other companies are having a hard time getting a permit to mine in the area?

Could it be that some people who allegedly received millionsor of dollars in bribes can no longer give back the money after the scrapping of the ZTE-NBN deal?

* * *

Mikey Arroyo says his mom "will likely become a teacher or lecturer after the expiration in 2010."

What will President Gloria—or Mike Arroyo for that matter—teach impressionable young minds?

* * *

A janitor-messenger at the Bureau of Internal Revenue has allegedly been harassing his neighbors with his gaucherie he moved into a Quezon City neighborhood a few months ago.

A check by "homeboy no. boy hello" with the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) in Camp Crame showed that this fellow has no firearm license and a permit for his gun.

Is a janitor-messenger qualified to own and carry a homicide-ready weapon?

Philippine Investment & Gaming Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 11-09-2008 (Re-bidding)

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of the Bid Documents	Nov. 21, 2008 – Dec. 10, 2008
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 27, 2008 (Thurs.) 10:00am
3. Last day to submit Bid Documents	Dec. 10, 2008 (Wed.) 10:00am
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 10, 2008 (Wed.) 10:30am

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

Cultural Center of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of the Project: Lifting of Cyan Tinted Glass on Roofdeck, Main Lobby, Theater Lobby and Theater Entrance

Approved Budget for Contract is PHP 6,000,000.00

1. The Cultural Center of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby announces the intention of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to undertake the above-mentioned project.

2. All prospective bidders must be licensed and accredited contractors to undertake the above-mentioned project.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Secretariat of the Bids and Awards Committee and may purchase the Bidding Documents from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00 at the CCP Treasury, on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. The Cultural Center of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bid bond, cashier's/manager's check, or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank, valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.

6. The Cultural Center of the Philippines will accept bids for the Project on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Main Lobby, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

7. The Cultural Center of the Philippines reserves the right to waive any minor defect in any bid received and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

8. For more information, please refer to the Secretariat of the Bids and Awards Committee, 2nd Floor, Main Lobby, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Telephone Nos. 832-1125 local 1802 or 1803.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

14 fratmen face charges for hazing

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU of Investigation on Tuesday filed charges against 14 members of a fraternity who allegedly hazed another student after they forced him to join a fraternity.

Charged with violating Republic Act 8049 (Anti-Hazing Law) at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office were Jerome Tevis, Ariel Monterey, Leni Boy Bagayan, Michael Godoro and Jerry Nelso —members of the Philippine Merchant Institute College of Research Arrastre, Quezon City.

The five, whose ages range from 18 to 22, were said to be members of the Sarandaig Utupa fraternity.

Also charged were nine graduates of the school who "have yet to be identified."

The 14 were accused of hazing Mirasol Ruiz, 23, another PMI student.

An investigation conducted by the NBI Special Action Unit showed that on Oct. 4, Ruiz was picking home from school on Benavidez Avenue when three men approached him.

The three took him to a nearby phoneshopping center where he was forced to fill out an application form to join the Sarandaig Utupa fraternity, the victim added.

Ruiz said that he refused to fill out the form and ran away. However, the three men chased him and caught up with him on Quezon Avenue.

According to the victim, more people showed up and surrounded him and one of them shoved him inside a dark blue L-300 van.

He added that everyone blindfolded and told him that he was going to a meeting.

Ruiz said he was taken to the house of a PEE graduate identified only as Jun. With Boy was a girl and two other persons.

At this point, Ruiz said he was asked to remove shirt for the start of the initiation rites. He added that during the rites, he was blindfolded and then punched several times in the chest.

Ruiz said he repeatedly asked the people around him to stop hazing him. However, they warned him if he were to quit the group, they would kill him. he said investigators.

Ruiz said that near the end of the initiation rites, he was forced to engage in a passionate kiss with two other men.

Afterward, the group warned him not to report the matter to school authorities. The victim exclaimed, he was also ordered to repay every day to the fraternity's kangaroo and to donate money to the group's fund.

Two days after his initiation into the group, Ruiz said he went to the fraternity's house where he met and recognized five of the men who had taken part in the hazing rites.

The victim immediately went to the NBI to ask for help. He also reported the matter to PNP officials who promptly hauled the suspects into enrolling in the maritime school for the second semester.

METROBRIEFS

Silencing the 'barkers'

THE MMDA, a government agency to rid the city streets of jeepney barkers, saying they only impede commuters' travel, will now ask the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to issue an order following complaints from various sectors, particularly public utility drivers, against the so-called "barkers" who are usually seen calling for passengers to waiting jeepneys parked at transit terminals and intersections. Instead of helping clear traffic, barkers observed they create traffic flow, the complainants told the mayor.

Tina Santos

Salvage victim

THE BODY of an alleged victim of summary execution was found dumped on a stretch of concrete pavement in front of Pamayanang Diliman Subd. East Fernandina, city police chief, said the unidentified man bore deep stab wounds all over his body. Fernandina said residents found the body lying during Rizal Street, Barangay 139, Zone 11 around 4:40 a.m. The man may have been killed elsewhere before he was dumped in the area, he said.

Marlon Ramos

Bonifacio Day concert

TWO DIVISION JOINS will pay tribute to Manila-born national hero Andres Bonifacio on Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Philharmonic Hall on Ma Avenue, Manila. The Bonifacio Day concert will feature the Bonifacio Concert Choir under conductor-composer Jerry B. Dadap and the Quezon City Symphony Orchestra led by Lucrecia Kasilag. It will be a unique evening of religious, patriotic and folk songs, classical, nostalgic love songs, and regional selections. Call 8924 for details at 911-5492.

Exhibit honors Zobel

THE DE LA SALLE Santiago Zobel School marks its 30th anniversary with a photo exhibit on Fernando Roque Zobel, one of the school's major benefactors. Beginning until Nov. 29, the exhibit is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It features rare photos and original letters of Zobel and his son Santiago, after whom the school is named. A rare relief sculpture of the artist's father, Ayala artist Rene Estanislao was unveiled with his widow, Dee Ana Zobel, and her grandaughter, Bianca Zobel, as guests of honor.

The Biggest Non-Voice Outsourcing Industry Event of the Year!

BPO summit philippines 2008

Where are you from all the innovative outsourcing minds? Each destination in a race if keep for the biggest non-voice outsourcing conference, exposition job fair, and special events? It's only at the BPO Summit Philippines 2008, the major annual event of the Philippine's most outstanding industry.

- BACK OFFICE
- TRANSCRIPTION
- GAME DEVELOPMENT
- DIGITAL ANIMATION

December 2 & 3, 2008

Conference | Expo | Job Fair | Special Events

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

DAY ONE

DAY TWO

PROGRAM AND TOPICS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

RESERVE YOUR SEATS TODAY!

DL Media Focus International Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(NCR/DOH Net Package III - Laboratory Equipment)

India Navy sank wrong ship

NEW DELHI—THE PIRATE "mother ship" sunk last week by the Indian Navy was actually a Thai fishing trawler seized hours earlier by pirates, a maritime agency said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the report, the Indian Navy defended its actions, saying it fired in self-defense.

The Indian Navy won international praise after the Nov. 18 battle supposedly with Somali pirates who have turned the vital Suez Canal trade route into the world's most dangerous waterway.

But Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) piracy reporting center in Malaysia, said the boat that the Indian Navy had blasted to pieces was actually a Thai captain and fishing trawler which had been seized by pirates off Yemen.

"We can confirm that the incident has taken place. One Thai crew member died during the attack by the Indian Navy, on the same day the vessel was hijacked by Somali pirates," Choong said.

Nineteen others are missing while a Cambodian sailor was rescued four days later by passing fishermen.

The maritime bureau received a report on the apparent

PIRATES on a speedboat approach one of their mother boats docked near Eyl, Somalia. AFP/FILE

mistake late Tuesday from Bangkok-based Seichal Fisheries, which owned the trawler, the Ekawat Nimah.

"The Indian Navy assumed it was a pirate vessel because they may have seen armed pirates on board the boat which has been hijacked earlier," Choong said.

In New Delhi, however, Indian Navy spokesperson Commander Nirad Sinha said that the INS Tabar was responding to threats from pirates on board the ship to attack.

"Insofar as we are concerned, both its description and its intent were that of a pirate ship," Sinha said.

"Only after we were fired upon did we fire. We fired in self-defense. There were gunwielding guys with RPGs on it," he added.

"Pirates take over ships ... They've been doing this since the days of Long John Silver."

Nishat Pirbodien found out about the ruling after speaking to the Cambodian sailor, who is now recuperating in a hospital in Yemen.

"We are saddened with what has happened. It's an unfortunate tragedy. We hope that this incident won't affect the anti-piracy operation by the multi-coalition forces there," Choong added.

Somali pirates have become increasingly brazen recently, striking eight vessels in the past two weeks, including a Japanese supertanker loaded with $100-million-worth of crude oil.

There have been 96 pirate attacks so far this year in Somali waters, with 39 ships hijacked. Fifteen ships with nearly 300 crewmen are still in the hands of pirates, who have demanded multimillion-dollar ransoms.

At present, warships from Denmark, India, Malaysia, Russia, the United States and Singapore's two international maritime corridors, escorting commercial ships and responding to distress calls in the area.

Skippers worldwide have called for a military blockade of the waters off Somalia's coast to intercept pirate vessels heading out to sea. Reports from AP and AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Gates to stay at Pentagon

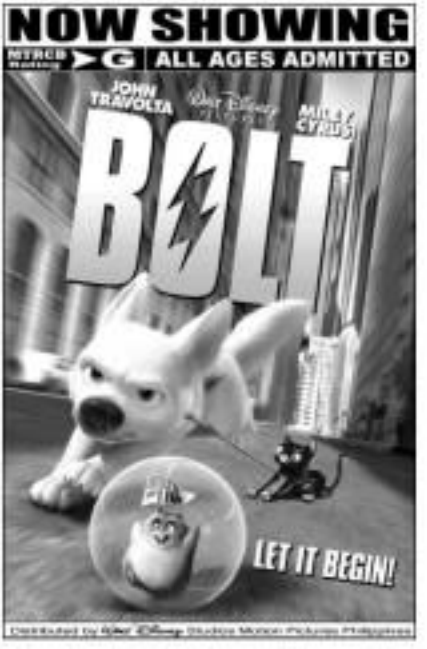
CHICAGO—Seeking experience in wartime, President-elect Barack Obama intends to retain Defense Secretary Robert Gates as head of the Pentagon—if only temporarily—and has chosen a retired Marine general to be White House national security adviser. Gates and retired Gen. James Jones would bring decades of experience to the administration of a 47-year-old commander in chief who campaigned on a pledge to withdraw combat troops from Iraq within 16 months while simultaneously ramping up the US military presence in Afghanistan. AP

Ex-future CIA chief blames critics

WASHINGTON—President-elect Barack Obama's top pick to head the CIA blamed his sudden withdrawal from consideration on critics who blamed him for harsh Bush administration policies on interrogations, detentions and secret renditions. John Brennan, a 25-year CIA veteran and senior analyst and the first head of the National Counterterrorism Center in 2004, preemptively declined to take any intelligence post in the new administration in a Nov. 3 letter sent to Obama. AP

Father gets life term for incest

LONDON—A father who repeatedly raped his two daughters for nearly 30 years told the children the abuse would never stop. They finally broke the silence this year, but only after he had fathered nine of their children. After nearly three decades of abuse, the 58-year-old father was sentenced on Tuesday to life in prison with the possibility of parole in about 20 years after pleading guilty last month to rape and assault. Living years of incestuous abuse, the man fathered nine children from his two daughters. "In nearly 40 years of dealing with offenders I have rarely come across a more serious case," Judge Alan Goldsack said in his ruling at Sheffield Crown Court in northern England. The case came to light in the case of Josef Fritzl—an Austrian man who confessed to imprisoning his daughter in a cellar for 24 years and fathering her seven children. AP



The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Quiazon

Mass layoffs spark riot at China factory

DONGGUAN, CHINA—ABOUT 500 PROTESTERS RIOTED at a toy factory in southern China, flipping over a police car, storming the plant's gates and trashing computers over a pay dispute, an official said on Wednesday.

The violence in Dongguan on Tuesday came as many companies in the once-booming city are shutting down or cutting staff amid rising costs, global economic woes and government plans to refocus low-end manufacturers.

Local officials are worried about the plans' impacts and have ordered the central government's model-filled 60-billion-renminbi plan. They have also been urging factories to avoid large layoffs to prevent social upheaval.

The riot was triggered by a disagreement over severance payments to 80 migrant workers among a group of 500 who were laid off this month when their contracts expired, according to a local propaganda office spokesperson who would only give his surname, Cai.

The 80 laborers claimed they were senior employees who deserved more severance from the Kai Da toy factory in Dongguan's Zhongtang township, Cai said.

Calls to the factory went unanswered on Wednesday. Hong Kong-listed owner Kader Holdings Company Ltd. said in statement to The Associated Press that it had compensated the workers according to China's labor law.

Kader, which has been making toys for more than 30 years and employs 7,000 people, also stressed it was financially sound and that production lines at the Dongguan factory were normal on Wednesday.

The 80 workers mobilized other unemployed laborers and migrants from their hometowns, forming a crowd of 500 at the factory's front gate on Tuesday evening, Cai said.

Another 1,000 people gathered to watch as the protesters turned over a police car, shattered headlights on police motorcycles and pushed their way through the factory gates.

Cai said the crowd broke glass, computers and other equipment in the factory's offices. No computers were damaged and several thousand yuan were lost, Kader's statement said without giving details.

The Southern Metropolis Daily newspaper on Wednesday featured a picture of protesters in a large office, where the floor was littered with papers and computer keyboards.

Another state-market paper, the Guangzhou Daily, showed on its front page a picture of the police vehicle that had been flipped over.

Dongguan is about a half-hour train ride southeast from Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province.

Factories in Guangdong—one of China's biggest manufacturing hubs—have been hit hard by a series of factors, including rising costs for labor and raw materials as well as currency fluctuations and the ongoing global financial crisis. AP

SM City Cebu marks a milestone today as it celebrates its 15th anniversary.
Being a benchmark, SM City Cebu has transformed itself into a new lifestyle destination in the premier city of the south. The third-wing, a spacious and stylish extension of SM City Cebu, showcases an array of fine choices from dining to apparel to tech gadgets. A supplement on these exciting stories comes with today's issue of Cebu Daily News, an affiliate of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

'Rescue people, not only banks'

BAGHDAD—A SENIOR UNITED NATIONS humanitarian official called on the world on Wednesday to rescue people from poverty and woe—and not just banks from financial collapse.

As the United States pledges to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on salvaging its economy, and other countries follow suit, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres urged the world community not to forget the poor and vulnerable.

He said that at the same time that he was pressuring this week a global appeal for $7 billion to help 30 million people, Washington had announced a $25-billion capital injection for a single bank—a sum equivalent to the weekend bailout of Citigroup.

"I am not asking to have the same amount of money for humanitarian action that's being spent, in at least being made available, to rescue the international financial system," Guterres told foreign reporters during a visit to Baghdad.

"But at least we should have the same consciousness to rescue people that we have to rescue the financial system, and to rescue the financial system is absolutely necessary. It is a crucial condition to avoid an economic depression that will have also dramatic humanitarian implications."

Guterres was in Iraq to visit UN staff trying to create the conditions for Iraqi refugees to return home after years of insecurity and violence that have driven a majority Shi'ites and once dominance from rule that followed the 2003 US invasion. Reuters

AIG Credit Cards

Win your Perfect ESCAPE!

PERFECT ESCAPE
RAFFLE PROMO

Make this holiday season your perfect escape when you get a chance to win a brand new FORD Escape XLS 4x2 or 1 of 5 Samsung 32" LCD TV with Home Theater System.
Every Php1,000 charged to your AIG Credit Card earns you 1 raffle entry.
The more you use your card, the more chances of winning. Charge up now!

683-8888

AIG PhilAm

Updike laureate of bad sex

LONDON—IT'S NOT QUITE the Nobel Prize, but John Updike has a new literary accolade: laureate of bad sex.

Updike, who has a long and graphic history of describing coupling on the page, won a lifetime achievement award on Tuesday from judges of Britain's Bad Sex in Fiction Prize, which celebrates crude, tasteless or ridiculous sexual passages in modern literature.

The judges, editors of literary review magazine, said 76-year-old Updike had been shortlisted for the prize four times in its 14-year history. AP

Sa Yellow, Panalo!!!

The DPC Yellow Pages Raffle Promo

Congratulations to the October winners!

You have each won P5,000 worth of SM Gift Certificates!

DPC YELLOW PAGES

WHAT'S INSIDE
Cavaliers thump Knicks /A28

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Malasdrew • Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SentrySafe
FIRE • THEFT

Fuel up now
at select Petron stations in Metro Manila.
PETRON
E10 PREMIUM
Green Blend

Roach: Hoya is not going to last

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

LOS ANGELES—ALL THAT TALK ABOUT Oscar De La Hoya fledgling on his welterweight plans and possibly signing up for another megabouck fund? Forget about it.

As far as Freddie Roach is concerned, Manny Pacquiao is going to knock Sunday's acknowledged Golden Boy in retirement. The venue? At the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, where the "Dream Match" between two of the sport's biggest names shall cost on Dec. 6.

And after Pacquiao's done with De La Hoya, it's off to London to battle the here-pending fight welterweight king Ricky Hatton.

"I think this is Oscar's last fight," said the two-time trainer of the year Monday evening.

Roach even laughed off the suggestion that De La Hoya might score in four rallies, who is coming off a successful title defense against Paul Malignaggi, sons. "You've knocked out by Pacquiao, it's over."

And Roach doesn't see the fight ending any other way.

"I don't know if De La Hoya or not but I'm still confident that there's no way we're going to lose this fight," Roach said. "Oscar's is not going to last."

In fact, Roach plans to put De La Hoya out of his misery early by taking advantage of the Filipino ring icon's ability to pummel opponents with relentless pressure.

"I told Manny that in the first round, I want you to go out there and make [De La Hoya] feel that it's a f**king fight right away," Roach revealed. "A lot of people still see that if Manny's past four, he's okay. [But] if you give Oscar De La Hoya momentum, he's going to grow stronger's.

"[De La Hoya is] a very skittish person. If you take it to him right away I think he'll fold. He's mentally not strong."

PACQUIAO will attack right in the first round, says Freddie Roach (inset).

Roach's boldest statement yet on the fight comes more than just his an The American trainer, largely credited for shaping Pacquiao into the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, a fanning his pronouncement via a conference of Indian.

For starters, Dargaian—despite being four pounds over the limit—has been putting together an impressive training at the Wild Card gym here, flooring sparmates left and right. There have are reports from Roach's "spies" that De La Hoya is struggling over at Big Bear, where the six-division champ trains.

De La Hoya, Roach said, was recently tested by former Pacquiao sparmate Verno Ortiz in training. Also, De La Hoya, in an effort to make sure he makes the welterweight limit of 147 lbs. has been forced to train at 146 for quite some time now.

"The him to maintain that weight for a long period of time, I feel he'll be as weak as a kitten come fight time," Roach said, adding that fighters normally use current poundage over the four-two days before the weigh-in.

Even De La Hoya's fight plans has been looking out, countries of Roach's faddict.

"I know [De La Hoya trainer] Naches [Beistain] is looking for [an opponent]," said the bespectacled trainer. "He also wants to establish his jab and the break off the jab."

"Manny'll get hit once in a while because he's aggressive," said Roach, echoes confidence stems from watching De La Hoyist rule over Steve Forbes. "If Forbes can hit him that easily, Manny Pacquiao can do a lot of damage in my opinion."

Pacquiao, on the other hand, is supposed to try and find his way past De La Hoya's jabs and work on the body before going for the kill.

"He's not a f**king smarter than he's got good jab and we got to get inside the jab," said Roach. "And if you get inside the jab, where you gonna start? Of course, the body."

Meanwhile, Roach reiterated that Pacquiao is no longer going to defend his lightweight crown. Pacquiao struggled to make the weight when he fought David Diaz and outrated the Amerinoa's WBC lightweight title. After eventing rescheduled off two moments to make the weight, Roach said the Filipino boxing hero made it clear he was moving up to welter.

PROPERTY VALUATION: How to do it yourself
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

SHARK
CAR ACCESSORIES
414-6647
372-3640
372-2464
www.sharkphil.com

WARNING!
Don't let the early signs of hairloss lead to baldness
Get help from the expert now!
Excessive dandruff
Severe hair fall
Receding hairline
Take corrective action against hairloss when you first see it! Never rely on anti-dandruff shampoos or thickening remedies that make your problem worse. Come to the real experts — Svenson. Find out how advanced hair and scalp solutions eliminate dandruff, control thinning and receding, and bring back thicker, healthier and stronger hair.
Stop hairloss symptoms, stop the threat of baldness. Call now for a FREE private consultation today.
Svenson
call 892-HAIR (4247)
MAKATI 13/F SIT Tower | TOMAS MORATO 2/F CKS Center | MANDAUE 11/F Pioneer Tower Building | ALABANG 6/F Citibank-Filinvest Building | CEBU 6/F Ayala Center Cebu Business Park

HOW HARD MUST AN AD WORK TO GRAB THIS MUCH ATTENTION?
Very little when your medium does this much work. Like Libre.
LIBRE
We offer up the proverbial captive market to the urban-minded, Monday-to-Friday riders of the MRT and LRT. Who, for few precious minutes, have nothing to do but read. Who, for few precious minutes, have a comfortable space and open mind. Who are continuously increasing due to the global economic situation. The articles are short, the issues relevant. Even the size is easy to handle with one hand on the grab-rail. And it costs nothing! Making it perhaps the most grabbing thing in a transit. Call 897-8800 to book your ads.

USC mainstay James Cortez runs into the La Salle double team of Ferdinand (right) and Mark Mendoza. ARIEL FONACIER

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Archers rip USC five, join Eagles in Last 8

By Cedell P Tupas

LA SALLE BEGAN TO PICK UP THE PIECES from its UAAP finals defeat with a 71-51 victory over University of San Carlos yesterday that joins the Archers as next in the elite eight of the Philippine Collegiate Championships League at The Arena in San Juan.

Deprived of what coach Franz Pumaren said was a "decent practice," the Archers gasped for hers early, before JR Cadiz, James Mangahas and rookie Hymen Bugarin conspired in two stifling second-half runs that muffled the challenge out of the Baby Thomasian Cebu.

"I don't think you'll see the right rhythm," said Pumaren after the Archers' first game since losing to Ateneo in September's UAAP finals.

La Salle will face the winner of today's match between University of the East and University of Visayas in the quarterfinals on Sunday.

The Archers didn't pull away until late in the third period when Mangahas hoisted eight straight points, including back-to-back triples, to stretch a 40-31 advantage to 48-34.

Cadiz made all the hench to score seven of his 13 points in a 12-0 run that sealed the win, 62-40, with six minutes left.

The Archers missed point guards Shaun Ildefonso and Lil Revilla because of injuries, leaving Bugarining and Baiber Malabies to do the playmaking chores. Bugarining relished on his new role with 11 points, on top of nine rebounds and four assists.

Pumaren believes the scheduling of the tournament has put teams with players in the PBL, including La Salle, at a disadvantage.

"The format is OK but I think they should issue the tournament calendar," he said. "I have six players in the PBL."

In the first game, Mapua outlasted a scoring-thrill-a-quarter assault to eliminate Manuel L. Quezon University, 87-85, and forge a battle clash with Ateneo on Sunday.

Jonathan Banal and Ned Pascual combined for 28 points in the final valiant the Cardinals mined an 83-58 edge, after leading 40-34 at halftime.

The scores:

Game 1

LA SALLE (71) – Bugarining 11, Cadiz 13, Mangahas 11, Mendoza 7, Malabies 6, Ildefonso 5, Ramos 5, Jackson 4, Banal 3, Cabe 3, Palmares 2, Revilla 2, Cortez 0.

USC (51) – Cortez 13, Ramos 9, Padilla 8, Lopez 7, Cadiz 4, Cabe 3, Cortejos 3, Bautista 2, Ildefonso 2, Jacinto 0, Palmares 0, Revilla 0, Mangahas 0, Malabies 0.

Quarters: 17-12, 32-20, 48-34, 71-51.

Game 2

MAPUA (87) – Banal 31, Pascual 28, Villare 10, Mangahas 7, Noriega 5, Pascua 3, Ildefonso 2, Ramos 2, Jacinto 0, Bautista 0, Cortez 0, Palmares 0, Revilla 0, Cortejos 0.

MLQU (85) – Cabe 17, Padilla 15, Lopez 13, Cadiz 12, Cortez 9, Cortejos 5, Ramos 5, Ildefonso 5, Jacinto 4, Palmares 3, Bautista 2, Revilla 0, Mangahas 0, Malabies 0.

Quarters: 16-17, 40-34, 62-58, 87-85.

Pinoys nip Argentinians

Gonzales scores as RP chessers end up in tie for 29th

Final standings

MEN (Top-board) – Armenia 30, Israel 31, United States, Ukraine 28, Russia, Azerbaijan, China, Hungary, Ukraine, Spain, Georgia, Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Netherlands, Armenia, Bulgaria, England, India, Slovenia, Belarus, Poland, Czech Republic, Belarus, Iceland, Slovakia, Israel, Greece, Sweden, Netherlands, Croatia, Canada, Philippines, Ireland, Russia, Slovakia, Finland, Belarus, Lithuania, Germany, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Poland, Slovakia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Poland.

WOMEN (Top-board) – Georgia, Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia, Ukraine

PCA OPEN

Seeds march into quarters

By Cedelf F. Tupas

TOP SEEDS PJ TERRY AND ISABEL JOHNSON cruised to the quarterfinals after pulling off easy victories yesterday in the 2002 PCA Open Tennis Championships at the PCA clubhouse in Manila.

Terry proved his relentless for his coach in the national team, Cris Castro, hacking out a 6-2, 6-2 victory in a third-round match that often deviated into an exchange of jokes from the bandies.

But the golf is power was evident early in the first set when the 23-year-old Team broke Castro's serve twice in the first three games of the match.

"Coach Cris knows my weaknesses but I think I'm in better shape than him," said Terry, who will face Elliot Amores for a place in the semifinals of the tournament presented by Cebuana Lhuillier.

Castro, 8pm. Terry to go all the way to the men's event that makes P100,000 for the champion, if the BP No. 1 stops sharp in his service game.

"We serve not the tempo of his game," said Castro, who lost to Wilson Tan in the opening round. "If he serves well, his baseline game is so impressive."

Amores, the fifth seed, handled out Michael Aluzuna, 7-5, 6-1, while defending champion and No. 2 seed Johnny Arolla crushed Elmo Saraspas, 6-2, 6-1. Arolla, who beat Terry for the title last year, will face either Alexander Lao or Japanese Hiroki Goda in the semifinals.

In women's play, the 17-year-old Celeta beat fellow juniors campaigner Jasmine Tan-Ho, 6-3, 6-3, to earn the right to face the winner between Trudy Amoranto and Clarice Bautista, whose match was scheduled last night.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals was defending champion Cristina Acosta, who outlasted Jennifer Magpayo, 6-2, 6-0. The second seed is the last four No. 2 seed Michelle Pang, who whipped Lourdes Linares, 6-1, 6-0.

Aileen Rogers rallied past Nikki Manalo, 0-7, 6-4, 6-0, to set up a last eight encounter with Thailand's Thana Wayuwat, a 7-5, 6-1 winner over Tanisha Siguyon.

SECOND seed Johnny Arolla returns to Miss Saraspas in action day's other featured match.

Alcantara scores, but Patrimonio gets door

By Ramina S. Austria

TITLE FAVORITE FRANCIS CASEY ALCANTARA and hometown favorite Patrimonio got a scare before advancing to the quarterfinals of the Pinoma International Junior Tennis Championship Week 1 yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Alcantara (bottom) Patrimonio also needed the over-tested, but older sister Anna Dolores (16) to set Uzbekistan entry.

Alcantara shook off a tentative start to survive baseline specialist Chong Hong of South Korea, 7-6 (3), 6-2, and gain a last-eight shot against Josip Mestic of Croatia.

Mestic eliminated fellow wild card Leandro Lazaro, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Anna Clarice, also a solid card here, was ahead, 7-6 (1), in the first set when Kristina Kapitany of Hungary retired due to an injury.

Patrimonio, coming off a title win in Singapore, handled Du Shidong of China, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, for next faces Su-Jung Jung of Korea, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Ryan Thailand Japan.

Meanwhile, No. 10 in the world's juniors ranking, said Chong returned strongly and secured the baseline very well during the opening set.

"His game changed in the second set, he failed to adjust to my game," the 16-year-old high school senior at the Xavier University lawsuit Cagayan said in Filipino.

Fourth seed Alina Ogorodova of Uzbekistan ousted Amine Ebrahim, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

Also making the quarterfinal round were fourth seed Omar Ebrahim of Egypt, who ousted local qualifier Ronne Hernandez, 6-1, 6-1, and seventh seed Mosaic Kita of Japan, who beat local Joshua Tan Ho, 6-2, 6-3.

In the girls division, Ian Rose-Anne of Chinese Taipei pulled off a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 upset victory over second seed Prang Sucsaiyo of Thailand. Qualifier Dong Xinrong of China stunned sixth seed Shoko Imamoto of Japan, 6-2, 6-2.

Lee will take on qualifier Tang Zhenxuan of China, who ousted Sarh Dionne Sanchez of Bahrain, 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-1 while Dong will battle Ogorodova.

Resurgent Wizards tackle Stunners today

By Cedelf F. Tupas

MAGNOLIA PUREFOODS HOPES TO build on a sensational victory Tuesday as the Wizards clash with Sunger King Stunners today in the 2000 PBL PCCW/Mo Liveboxers Cup at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City.

The Wizards, whose two-game streak was stopped by defending champion Mailbox Centro, 70-75, last week, are aiming to start another winning run, after a big 86-75 win over Hapee Tuesday.

Magnolia and Sunger King (semi) at 4 p.m. after Master riders in Super.

The Wizards, in only second with a 5-1 slate, is expected to lean on small forward Dylan Abelon and the veteran frontline combination of Bell Samson and Al Magpayo, who were solid contributors in the win against the Complete Protectors.

Meanwhile, Noel Cabonce got 17 points and eight rebounds from Gary Pinanca as it overwhelmed Oracle Redeemers for Eastern U, 64-51, while Master Cup Lyceum broke into the win column with a 69-67 win over Mail and Mine yesterday in the Women's PBL at the Ynares gym in Antipolo.

In the third game, Crescent College of St. Benilde stunned sister team Scottish La Salle, 66-66, for its first win in three starts, spoiling the conference-high output of 20 points by Eliezer Ortiza.

The scores

Game 1

Game 2

Game 3

Game 4

Milo Marathon battle royale on cards

By Cedelf F. Tupas

A BATTLE ROYALE AMONG THE COUNTRY'S four long-distance runners looms as the crowned finals of the 22nd Milo Marathon Meet off on Sunday in Manila.

The 42-km footrace, which begins at the Malacañang area just across the Rizal Memorial and ends at the Quirino Grandstand, lacked some power last year, when some of the traditional favorites competed in the Southeast Asian Games.

It will be a different story on Sunday though, as defending titlist Crisanto Jose Isabel battles it out with former champions Eduardo Buenavista, Alex Ballentes, Roy Vence and Julius Ferreras in the men's division.

Florabelle Cantoria is aiming for a second consecutive title, but expect former winners Mabel Fabregas, Lita Verzosa and Imelda Bautista Dan to extend her to beat together with Aileen Talentino, Marivel Magallon, Irene Apolinario, Ellen Talentino, Cecile Faith Topia, Hazel Mendiondo, Chelsey Ibrillano, Mona Liza Ambasa and Merlita Arias.

Also part of the field in the men's division are Cebuanoslead Indapan, Jerry Lindanzia, Jerad Leopardo, Rolando Pimentel, Bernardo Gonzales Jr, Gerald Isibol, Mapin Bolivar and Reynaldo Jose Reyes.

The winners in both divisions will receive P75,000 each with the second placer getting P50,000 each.

Meanwhile, P750,000 in prize money is actually at stake, including prizes for top finishers in the 10K, 5K and Fathers' 5K side events.

Also among those joining the race is Nino Nonoh, Nanki Philippines chef Ramon Alberto, Ria Cayetano, a regular competitor in previous races.

The 10K top finishers will also win P 10,000 in both divisions while the champions in the 5K has prize will take home P5,500 each.

CHRISTIAN Go (inset) powers through the strip to 18.65 seconds.

Go posts all-motor RP mark at Clark

CHRISTIAN GO IS INSPIRED to a new all-motor Philippine record, beating his own mark during the recent 2000 Pagcor Drag Racing Championships Northern Series kickoff leg at the Clark International Speedway Drag Strip at the Clark Freeport, Mongolia.

Seeking action to only his third drag racing season, Go clocked 10.65 seconds to shatter his previous record of 10.8 set in July at the Sun Mig Coffee Drag Racing Championship. He warmed up timed in the Pro class with a time of 10.000 seconds.

The 19-year-old Go, a nursing student of New England College, started in drag racing at age 17. He emerged runner-up in the Clubman category in the 2007 Sun Mig Coffee race at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

He likewise placed second behind defending champion Jonathan Tia in the fifth leg of the same race last May.

"We didn't have enough time to prepare for this race," said Go, also a Quick 8 champion in two events in Clark and Pangasinan. "It's a whole new venue and we never thought that the competition will be this tough."

Go's father, Major Edgar Go, of Marinco, Imbela, was himself a top drag racer and rally driver during the 1980s.

Go's Honda EG, with a K20 2.0 liter engine, was prepared by Blanche Tuason's Jon Automotive. (www.vdm.com)

La Salle, Ateneo golf stars renew rivalry

THREE MONTHS AFTER THEIR thrilling clash for the UAAP cage crown, La Salle and Ateneo go at it again, this time for golf supremacy when the fifth La Salle-Ateneo Match Play is held Dec. 19 to 21 at the Tagaytay Midlands.

The Archers have ruled the last three singings of the annual Bjelke Cup-style event, including last year's masterful 24-10 victory, also at Tagaytay Midlands, in a match they dominated from the start.

The Archers are expected to field practically the same roster with some formidable additions.

But the Eagles, who won the inaugural staging of the event at Sherwood, have made their own adjustments this year in the event organized and hosted by Bulls Corp. and Tagaytay Highlands in cooperation with the De La Salle Alumni Association Golf Club and the Ateneo Golf Foundation.

Missing from last year's lineup, however, La Salle is tipped to lean on the likes of top scorer Miko Aquino, Junior Limjap, reigning national champion Arjo Baquiran, Kim Hong with Tommy Manson providing experience.

Ateneo, on the other hand, will play the hopes on the experience of UAAP batters Manuel Pinpin, three-time Asia senior champion Iggy Clavecilla, veterans campaigners Marty Bigay, Mel Bichenero, Visible Ladies champion Lovelyn Gaingan and former national champion Anthony Fernando.

HILL CLIMB TRIALS The BOSS BMW Motorcycle Club, in cooperation with the Subic Motorsports Festival, is organizing the first Philippine Motorcycle Hillclimb Event on Nov. 29 in Agusto Suzuki Subic. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The course is a one-kilometer asphalt road composed of sweeping and tight turns. Participants would be timed from the bottom to the top of the hill. Categories in the event are 250cc, 400cc and open class. For inquiries, call 09.28-1447888, or log on to www.motorcyclemania.com. The event is sponsored by Phoenix Petroleum.

Orchard Founders tilt draws record 800 bets

A RECORD FIELD OF FIVE PLAYers tees off today in the 14th edition of The Orchard Founders Golf Invitational at the Palmer and Player courses of the golf complex in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The annual tourney, spread over four days, will have shotgun starts at 6:25 a.m. and 12:25 p.m.

Teams dispute the overall title, low gross and the top two scorers in four different groups that will be equally divided based on scores.

Pairings and hole assignments at the tees meticulously prepared rule courses may be checked at www.the orchard golf.com.

A BMW 330 A/T is at stake as hole-in-one prize on all eight par-3 holes.

Apart from the car, boosters also round trip tickets to the Silka Coast and golf carts are also at stake as prizes for an ace.

BMW Intl Motorsports Cavite, Coca-Cola Phils., Davies Technical Solutions, Minutes and Philippine Airlines are the event's major sponsors with Banco de Oro, Globe Telecom, The Net Company, Security Bank, Sta. Lucia Realty Papaya and Philippine Ports Authority are premium hole sponsors.

Arellano U stops UNC in big NCRAA debut

TOP FAVORITE ARELLANO UNIVERSITY walloped Universal College of Nursing, 63-54, Monday to prop up its three-peat bid in the 2008 National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament.

Adrian Celada fired 13 points while Jordan Medina, Dennis Santos and Jayson Ignacio scattered 11, 11 and eight points, respectively, to give the Chiefs a rousing start to the tournament it ruled the last two years.

"It's nice to start the tournament with a victory," said Arellano coach Leo Isaac.

The win by the Chiefs came a few days before they face the UCS dribblers, who topped the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association champions, in the 2008 Philippine Collegiate Championship League (PCCL).

Drawing strength on a free-flowing offense centered on PBL veterans Ilaryan, Arellano shocked University of Santo Tomas in the semi quarterfinals a month ago.

The Legarda-based Arellano is aspiring to become the newest member of the NCAA.

"We hope the NCAA would accept us a new member," said Ilaryan, the school's marketing chief also pushing for reviewing the affairs of its athletic program.

CAVALIERS' LeBron James (left) drives past the Knicks' Quentin Richardson in their NBA game Tuesday

SPORTS

Cavaliers thump Knicks

NEW YORK—LEBRON JAMES SCORED 25 POINTS BEFORE SITTING OUT THE fourth quarter and the Cleveland Cavaliers quickly took a charged-up New York crowd out of the game in a 129-101 victory over the Knicks on Tuesday.

Delonte West added 16 points and Wally Szczerbiak had 15 for the Cavaliers, who rung up their highest point total of the season and put seven players in double figures, showing they may have more help than ever for James, the NBA's leading scorer.

Stars hoping yesterday to see James play in New York got to learn how good his Cleveland teammates right now. The Cavaliers rested it into a blowout while James was enjoying his first win to start the second quarter, and improved the NBA's third-best record to 11-3.

Quentin Richardson scored 23 points and newcomer Tim Thomas had 16 for the Knicks, who lost for the fourth time in five games and fell to 7-7.

At Oklahoma City, Matt Barnes hit a 3-point-er from the left wing with 25.7 seconds left to complete Phoenix's fourth-quarter rally and spoil Scott Brooks' home debut as Oklahoma City head coach.

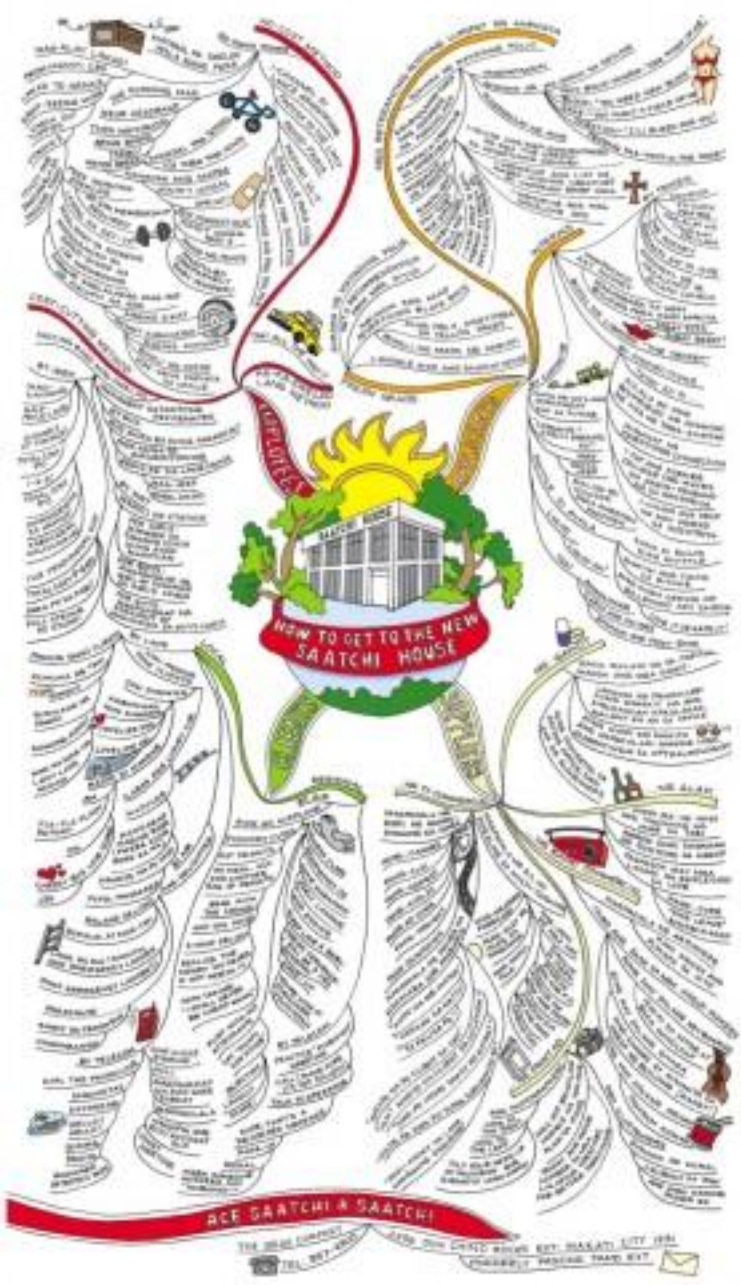
The Thunder led throughout the second half and had been up by as much as 16 late in the third quarter before Steve Nash rallied the Suns with a 13-0 run.

Raniel Jojokite gave Phoenix its first lead of the second half. The Thunder had two final chances to win, but both Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook hurried shots as they had possession.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 32 points, Nash had 20 points and 13 assists and Barnes scored 16.

Durant led Oklahoma City with 29 points and Chris Wilcox scored a season-high 16. AP

NBA RESULTS: Washington 114, Golden State 103 (Arenas 37, Jamison 24, Butler 20, Stevenson 19, Blatche 10, Crittenton 9); Miami 99, Orlando 86 (Wade 30, Beasley 19, Haslem 10); Atlanta 110, Indiana 102 (Johnson 23, Horford 20, Williams 19, Smith 18, Bibby 10); Chicago 107, Toronto 101 (Gordon 25, Deng 20, Hinrich 19, Thomas 10, Nocioni 10, Gray 10, Ben-Hur 10); Boston 107, Memphis 94 (Pierce 24, Allen 20, Rondo 15, Garnett 14, Perkins 10, Powe 10, Posey 10); Houston 101, Minnesota 96 (Yao 28, Battier 19, Landry 10, Brooks 10, Lowry 10, Hayes 10); Milwaukee 107, Sacramento 101 (Bogut 20, Ridnour 19, Ilyasova 18, Mbah a Moute 15, Ellis 10, Salmons 10, Kaman 10, Thomas 10); Utah 107, Portland 101 (Boozer 24, Kirilenko 20, Williams 19, Brewer 10, Miles 10, Price 10, Fesenko 10, Kelenic 10); Phoenix 112, Oklahoma City 107 (Stoudemire 32, Nash 20, Barnes 16, Hill 10, Amundson 10, Diaw 10, Durant 29, Green 19, Wilcox 16, Westbrook 15, Ivey 10, Mohammed 10, Collison 10, Ukic 10); Golden State 103, Washington 114 (Arenas 37, Jamison 24, Butler 20, Stevenson 19, Blatche 10, Crittenton 9); Orlando 86, Miami 99 (Wade 30, Beasley 19, Haslem 10); Indiana 102, Atlanta 110 (Johnson 23, Horford 20, Williams 19, Smith 18, Bibby 10); Toronto 101, Chicago 107 (Gordon 25, Deng 20, Hinrich 19, Thomas 10, Nocioni 10, Gray 10, Ben-Hur 10); Memphis 94, Boston 107 (Pierce 24, Allen 20, Rondo 15, Garnett 14, Perkins 10, Powe 10, Posey 10); Minnesota 96, Houston 101 (Yao 28, Battier 19, Landry 10, Brooks 10, Lowry 10, Hayes 10); Sacramento 101, Milwaukee 107 (Bogut 20, Ridnour 19, Ilyasova 18, Mbah a Moute 15, Ellis 10, Salmons 10, Kaman 10, Thomas 10); Portland 101, Utah 107 (Boozer 24, Kirilenko 20, Williams 19, Brewer 10, Miles 10, Price 10, Fesenko 10, Kelenic 10); Oklahoma City 107, Phoenix 112 (Stoudemire 32, Nash 20, Barnes 16, Hill 10, Amundson 10, Diaw 10, Durant 29, Green 19, Wilcox 16, Westbrook 15, Ivey 10, Mohammed 10, Collison 10, Ukic 10)



Albania, 2 others sure of medals

NINGBO, CHINA—SOUTHPAW ASIAN games gold medalist Asmir Albania and rare achiever Filipinas entered on the scroll-rank on Tuesday, assuring the Philippines of at least three bronze medals in the 2008 Alba Women's World Boxing Championships at the Ningbo International Convention.

Albania won whelmed Song Hye Jung 10-6, in their light featherweight quarterfinal round, moving along fly-weight Analiza Cruz, who bested Diana Timofte of Romania, 13-8, and pinweight Jinde Gabisao, who subdued Ozum Nimbiyar of Ukraine, 7-3.

CRUZ

With at least three bronzes in the bag, the Filipinas have already surpassed their two-bronze medal haul in the last two editions of the world tilt.

Mirchel Silverio, a bronze medalist in the past two world bouts, will go home without a medal this time after pitching to China's Cheng Dong, 14-3.

"It's really hard to win against the host, we can't do anything about it," said RP-team PLDT coach Alberto Catolico Jr. "At least we still have some athletes left and we know we'll have a good and happy day tomorrow."

In the semis, Albania will battle India's Lakshmi Sinha, Thailand IBAG silver medalist and 2005 Asian Championship silver finisher, while Cruz will tackle fourth Korean Hyang Ok-hui. Gabisao, on the other hand, will square off with 2007 European champion Simona Dana of Romania.

The competition takes a break Wednesday with the boxers resuming at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Albania chalked her second straight shutout win after whipping Sacred Downing of the United States, 10-3, on Tuesday.

Lopez draws int'l body ax

OUTGOING AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION of the Philippines president Manuel V. Lopez has been suspended from the executive committee of the International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba).

Aiba executive director Ho Kim said the Aiba, in its second extraordinary meeting on Nov. 17 in Geneva, unanimously ratified Lopez's full suspension from the executive committee membership due to his actions during the 2007 Thailand Southeast Asian Games.

In a letter to Lopez, Ho said the Aiba also decided to extend Lopez's full suspension from the executive committee for two more years because of his "continuous allegations without evidences" which was categorized as a "big offense to Aiba's image."

Aiba told Lopez it was willing to give him further clarifications on the matter.

Lopez led a boycott by the Philippines of the boxing finals in SEAG, resulting in the forfeiture of possible gold medals by the Filipinos.

After the SEAG, Lopez even wrote Aiba president Ching-kuo Wu of Taiwan on Dec. 11, 2007. In his letter, Lopez accused the Thai organizers of handpicking officials and blamed other "glaring irregularities" in the event for the Philippines' decision to forfeit all but one of its men's gold medal bouts against Thai rivals.

Lopez is seeking the first vice presidency of the Philippine Olympic Committee under the reform-oriented Cojuangco-led new bloc's POC polls. He is being opposed by Tagaytay City Mayor and National Olympic Committee of the Philippines secretary general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Lito Real O. Morales • Assistant Lito Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Imports inched up 2.5% in Sept. to $4.86B

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

US, Japan top markets for RP exports (Jan to Sept 2008)

Purchases of raw materials for electronics exports fell 26%

By Michelle V. Rama

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS ROSE 2.5 PERCENT YEAR-ON-YEAR in September to $4.86 billion, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

The NSO said electronics imports fell 26 percent to $1.34 billion from $2.10 billion a year ago, indicating a slowdown in electronics exports in the coming months. Electronics are the country's top exports, but the Philippines imports about 90 percent of the raw materials for these items.

Analysts said projections that the United States and advanced economies in Europe would suffer from recession next year prompted electronics firms to reduce production.

On the other hand, imported mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials surged 52.1 percent to $978.32 million from only $643.77 million a year ago.

Jonathan Harvilla, market strategist for Banco de Oro, said companies may have been encouraged to import more fuels by the sharp drop in oil prices.

After reaching historic highs of more than $140 a barrel in July, oil prices fell below $100 and now hover at slightly above $50 as the recession means demand for the commodity will slump in the United States and other industrialized economies.

The NSO said cereals (mainly rice) were the third biggest import products in September at $207.63 million, up 260 percent from only $81.28 million in the same month last year.

Imports of industrial machinery and equipment likewise grew 50 percent to

SEE PAGE B4

IN LIEU OF HOUSE PROPOSAL

Excise tax on soft drinks pushed

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE prefers the imposition of an excise tax on soft drinks over the plan emanating from the House of Representatives to hit manufacturers for three carbonated beverages.

In a position paper submitted to the Lower House, the DOF said collecting a excise tax the flavored or colored syrups used to the manufacture of soft drinks would pose an administrative nightmare for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The DOF explained that the same syrups used in the manufacture of soft drinks were also used in the production of other drinks like juices, beer and fruit juices.

If the government would require manufacturers of sweeteners to pay excise taxes on their products that would be sold to soft drinks makers, then this could only encourage tax evasion. Manufacturers of sweeteners could simply misdeclare what they produced would be sold tax to makers of soft drinks for to other beverage manufacturers.

"If the underlying objective of the proposal is to regulate and discourage the consumption of soft drinks that are alleged to cause health problems, then the DOF might consider proposals imposing the excise tax on soft drinks itself. We find the option simpler from the point of view of tax administration," the DOF said in the position paper.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters that imposing an excise tax on sweeteners solely used for the production of soft drinks would require the BIR to establish a monitoring system that would simply duplicate those of the manufacturers producers of a manufacturer for any given period would be sold to soft drinks makers.

Beltran said such a move would be costly.

Under House Bill No. 595, authored by Rep. Danilo Suarez, the sweet or colored syrups used in the production of soft drinks would be charged a 10 percent excise tax.

The bill is aimed at discouraging the public from consuming too much soft drinks, which are believed to cause health problems like

SEE PAGE B4

S&P sees RP growth slowing to 3.3-3.8%

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL CREDIT WATCHDOG STANDARD & Poor's sees a rebound in Asia-Pacific stock markets in 2009 despite a potential increase in corporate defaults alongside a significant deterioration of the global economy.

Meanwhile, the peso yesterday strengthened to 49.11, closing at the day's high-end during the morning. Seen "Bangko's" close of 49.405, on the back of upbeat regional stock market trading and the inflows of remittances from overseas Filipinos ahead of the Christmas season.

Most Asian currencies appreciated against the greenback yesterday as stock markets extended their gains, supported by fund reco-

SEE PAGE B4

CURRENCIES

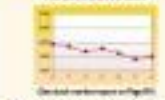
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.11 = $ 1

as of 5 p.m. Nov. 26, 2008

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close 1.3% higher

GAINER PRICES CLOSED 1.3 PERCENT higher yesterday amid easing domestic inflation fears, dealers said.

The composite index added 24.73 points to 1,932.24, while the all-shares index shed 0.6 percent to 1,228.81 points.

There were 91 advancers, 44 losers and 35 unchanged and turnover was relatively moderate at 764.8 million shares worth P1.8 billion.

"Easing inflation is helping sentiment, bolstering hopes that consumer spending—and consequently corporate profits—will improve in the fourth quarter," Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said investors widely expected economic growth data in the three months to September, due for release today, to have slowed due to inflation and a weaker global economy.

Because of this, the dollar is unlikely to be a major market driver "unless there's a sharp divergence it surprises," Ravelas added.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. added 2.4 percent to P2,300. AFP

A Select Fleet. A Rare Chance.

Vehicles selected for the exclusive use of BMW Philippines executives are now available at exceptional pre-owned prices.

Call +63915 513 0883 to book a test drive and take advantage of this rare ownership offer.

2008 Models	Chassis Number	Color	Plate Number	Age (Months)	Mileage (kms)	SRP w/ VAT	Sale Price w/ VAT
BMW 116i Executive	YS3EF40	Sparkling Graphite	ZHC-174	4.2	5,000	1,775,000	1,595,000
BMW 116i Executive	YS3EG45	Black Sapphire	ZHC-357	4.8	4,800	2,050,000	1,900,000
BMW 120d Sport	WBAPF49	Black Sapphire	ZHC-473	3.4	6,000	2,650,000	1,900,000
BMW 318i M T	WBAPF	Monaco Blue	ZHC-697	8.2	9,473	1,900,000	1,550,000
BMW 320si Advantage	WBAVA39	Black Sapphire	ZHC-769	3.3	5,300	2,650,000	2,150,000
BMW 320i	WBAPH52	Titanium Silver	ZHC-381	3.4	2,300	2,650,000	2,000,000
BMW 325i Executive	WBCPF37	Black Sapphire	ZHC-693	8.5	1,900	2,750,000	2,450,000
BMW 325Ci Coupe	WBABW53	Monaco Blue	ZHC-502	5.8	5,000	3,000,000	2,600,000
BMW 525i	WBANB53	Black Sapphire	ZHC-787	1.8	3,000	4,750,000	3,490,000
BMW 525xi Touring	WBANV51	Space Grey	ZHC-899	3.8	5,000	4,950,000	3,490,000
BMW 525xi Touring	WBANV48	Black Sapphire	ZHC-788	4.3	6,000	4,950,000	3,850,000
BMW 730Li	WBANV49	Alpine White	ZHA-993	15.5	1,000	5,900,000	4,940,000
BMW M3 Coupe	WBSPM37	Melbourne Red	ZHA-117	6.6	5,000	6,400,000	5,750,000
BMW X3 2.5si A/T	WLB68430	Silver Grey	ZHC-502	3.8	1,200	3,990,000	3,650,000
BMW X3 2.5Si 6cyl	WBSPM440	Silver Grey	ZHC-887	4.9	3,700	3,790,000	3,300,000
BMW X5 3.0si Executive	WBAVC56	Titanium Silver	ZHC-662	3.1	5,000	5,990,000	4,990,000
BMW X6 xDrive35i	WBAVC56	Black Sapphire	ZHC-128	3.3	5,700	6,300,000	5,300,000

RHI seeks partners in projects

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ROXAS HOLDINGS INC. YESTERDAY SAID it would likely complete its corporate reorganization by January 2009.

To hone its business prospects, RHI chair Pedro Roxas said the company had also tapped investment bank Macquarie to formulate a strategy that would allow the entry of investors into its biofuel and sugar businesses.

"We are considering bringing in a strategic or financial partner possibly in 2009. We are in talks with several groups, both local and foreign that have expressed interest to invest in the group and its projects," Roxas said in a message to stockholders.

To make its reorganization history, the Roxas group said it would combine all its sugar businesses under listed investment firm Roxas Holdings Inc., formerly sugar miller Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP).

RHI will acquire the net assets of its subsidiary CADP Group Corp., worth P113.8 million; and all outstanding companies of CADP Group Corp., including Central Azucarera Don Pedro Inc., Central Azucarera de la Carlota Inc., CADP Farm Services Inc., Isabela Grasas Manufacturing Industries Inc., CADP Consultancy Services Inc., the group's 45-percent equity in Sweetline Philippine Co., and the group's 67-percent stake in Sajolie Agri-Ventures Inc. for P3.66 billion.

The company will also assume the liabilities of the CADP Group Corp. worth P219.8 million.

From the Ivatans of Batanes
to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi
Unites the Filipino
JRS EXPRESS
Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

CANTINETTA, a trendy restaurant serving the best Italian dishes, has added another prestigious name in its menu of quality food products that it serves to its growing clientele after it signed an agreement with Espressamente Illy, a division of Illycaffe, to be the latter's master franchisee in the Philippines. Illycaffe is based in Trieste, Italy and produces and sells a unique single blend of premium quality coffee worldwide. Photo shows Jose Maria Bautista (second left), Chairman of the Board of Cantinetta, Inc. and Raymond de Mallerin, Managing Director of Espressamente Illy, at the signing of the agreement at Cantinetta's Bonifacio High Street branch. Standing behind to witness the signing were Ramon Bautista Bautista (left) and Lito Caballero, manager and general manager, respectively, of Cantinetta.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR CRANE HANDLING & OTHER RELATED WAREHOUSE HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The National Food Authority, Regional Office No. V, Legazpi City, through its 2008 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of P 45,233,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the NFA's Contract(s) to cover payment for the contract(s) for Crane Handling and other related warehouse handling services in Region V for the calendar year 2009 based on the following:

Lot	Province	Location of warehouse	Estimated volume to be handled (bags)	Estimated no. of moves	Estimated Budget for the Contract
1	Albay	Ligao City	201,000	May. of 4	P1,383,690.00
		Daraga	177,000	May. of 4	P1,218,330.00
2	Camarines Norte	Daet	400,000	May. of 4	P2,754,000.00
3	Camarines Sur	Pasacao, Calabanga, Tigaon, Pili, San Jose, Iriga, Bombon (Basud)	1,000,000	May. of 4	P11,182,440.00
4	Catanduanes	Virac Proper	300,000	May. of 4	P2,870,000.00
5	Masbate	Masbate City	612,000	May. of 4	P 5,646,000.00
6	Sorsogon	Sorsogon City/ Bulan Proper/Gubat	200,000	May. of 4	P 1,650,000.00
		Total	2,890,000		P45,103,460.00

* Bidding to areas where the agency may rent available warehouse depending on the need as per the provision of the policy guidelines/ manuals.

The prospective bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent accompanied by a non-refundable application fee amounting to Php 1,000.00 as basis for the issuance of the eligibility and other pertinent documents required by the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC).

1. Official business name/DTI and/or SEC registration, whichever may be appropriate.
2. Updated Mayor's or business permit.
3. Names of manpower assembly utilized for handling services (labor/L-300/etc).
4. Eligibility criteria also includes the prospective bidders' regular contract completed within the last 3 years, which is at least equivalent to the total volume to be handled by current proper, using the wholesale consumer price index must be at least 25 % of the ABC to be bid. For this purpose, a photocopy of the contract must be submitted for authentication.

The prospective bidders upon complying with the above requirements shall be allowed to purchase the Bidding Documents from the RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Php 4,000.00/lot.

The bidding of warehouse handling services at NFA Region V Legazpi City shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing rules and regulations.

The venue of bidding activities will be held at the 2nd floor of the NFA Regional office, Rizal cor. Legazpi City-on the following schedule:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
1. Submission of Letter of Intent & eligibility requirements	Nov. 23-Dec. 4, 2008	8:00AM-5:00PM
2. Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements	December 5, 2008	5:00 PM
3. Issuance of bid applications and bid documents	Nov. 23-Dec. 4, 2008	8:00AM-5:00PM
4. Pre-bidding conference	December 8, 2008	2:30AM
5. Submission of bid documents/opening of bids	December 23, 2008	2:30AM

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using "Pass/Fail criteria" and shall be determined either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "failed" in any of the required items, he shall be considered "ineligible".

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7495, 480-7496/480-9148 and 480-7915.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES CONTAINED THEREIN OR TO ANNUL THE BIDDING AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE DEEMED TO ANY CONTRACT OR ANYONE SEE IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

LOIE I. ADEVARA
RBAC Chairman

Coconut output to grow 11% in '09, PCA estimates

By Amy R. Remo

PHILIPPINE COCONUT PRODUCtion may likely expand by 11 percent to 2.77 million metric tons to copra terms next year, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority.

PCA Deputy Administrator Antonio J. Liquete said in a briefing yesterday that the recovery of the sector from an estimated output of 2.5 million MT this year could be attributed largely to the safe fertilization program.

The said fertilization program involves fertilizing coconut farms with late kilos of salt per tree per year for three years to increase yield by at least 25 percent.

This method is expected to increase the thickness of coconut meat and the number of nuts harvested.

The procedure is also credited for making coconut trees resistant to drought, pests and diseases.

If all of the PCA's program is realized and are put in place this year, Liquete said it might even be possible for coconut output to reach as much as 3.2 million MT, given the recovery from the devastation caused by typhoons in late 2006 and the infestation of an invasive beetle (Brontispa longissima gestro), which damaged seedlings and mature coconut palms.

Liquete added that the increase in coconut production would also help boost the country's estimated exports to as much as 1 million MT in 2009, up from an estimated export volume of only 850,000 MT this year.

Last year, the country's total coconut oil exports had reached 888,843 million MT.

The Philippines, the world's biggest supplier of coconut oil, exports 60 percent of its local coconut oil production.

RECOVERY measures are expected to raise coco output to 2.77M MT next year.

"There's a slow buying this year across export products due partly to the global recession," Liquete said.

Similarly, the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines said earlier the sector would likely raise its target coconut oil export volume this year because there was an "over expectation of the recovery of local coconut production."

The group said that while the coconut sector did not recover as far as expected, the export figure this year would still exceed last year's level.

Boyongan project viable, Philex says

By Roland W. Dizon

PHILEX GOLD, A SUBSIDIARY OF Philex Mining Corp., has determined that it would be profitable to develop the Boyongan copper-gold deposit in Surigao del Norte.

Philex Gold said in a report that the pre-feasibility study on the Boyongan copper-gold porphyry deposit in Surigao del Norte has been completed and that it was determined to be viable.

Last February, Philex Gold said a study made by Anglo American Exploration (Philippines) B.V.—the joint venture partner of its subsidiary Philex Gold Philippines Inc.—showed that developing the Boyongan property would not be profitable enough.

Philex Gold, which disagreed with Angelo Saldivia, hired independent consultant Resources Limited to look into the study "using appropriate parameters and assumptions of a mining company operating within the Philippines."

Philex Gold said that as part of the new feasibility study, a new mineral resource estimate was completed using drill hole data as of Dec. 31, 2007.

"Using long-term metal prices of $2.75 per pound for copper and $700 per ounce of gold for the base case, the pre-feasibility study shows a positive net present value of $130 million and a payback of 3.5 years," Philex Gold said.

"The life of mine production scheduled includes nine years of ore stripping to allow a mine life of 14 years at a consistent milled rate of 3 million tons of ore per year," it added.

The company said further the newly disclosed additional inferred mineral resources.

The study has determined a proven mineral reserve of 16.8 million tons at 0.87 percent copper and 1.39 grams of gold per ton.

Also, the study identified a probable mineral reserve of 1.9 million tons at 0.65 percent copper and 0.52 grams of gold per ton.

Philex Mining Corp. meanwhile reported that it shipped out last Tuesday copper concentrates realized at about P615 million.

Philex president Jose Ernesto C. Villafuna Jr. told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the shipment was composed of 3,042 dry metric tons of copper concentrates containing about 2.7 million pounds of copper and 16,455 ounces of gold.

The company owns 81 percent of Canada-based Philex Gold Inc., which in turn owns Philex Gold Philippines Inc., the owner of gold assets including the Boyongan mine in Surigao Occidental.

Mindanao to forge closer ties with the Middle East

THE MINDANAO CHAMBERS OF Commerce sent a full delegation of businessmen representing all the major cities and provinces of the island to the recently-concluded 36th Philippine Business Conference held in Manila Hotel.

Perhaps it is because of my distance from Manila that we always look forward to hearing President Arroyo's speech during the closing ceremonies. And we were delighted recently to see whether the President would drop a word or two about Mindanao. And ever the past years, she has never failed to do so.

Shock absorbers

This year, her speech focused on the measures being undertaken by the country to cushion the impact of the recession in the United States. She elaborated that the Philippines has a number of shock absorbers.

Among those are our solid banking system and our steady overseas growth in remittance inflows. It was said that even if the American economy sinks, the experiences in that part of the world are to assume that are less sensitive to recession. Those are the teachers, nurses, health service and technology-related workers and caregivers.

The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector will also offset the slow growth in manufacturing exports. In addition, pump priming will happen in many sectors and industry, more so in agriculture, housing, infrastructure and lending support for micro and medium-sized businesses.

Relationship with Middle East

President Arroyo also said that the "Arab region is up due to the past five years of economic boom" She had to the country's economy in the Middle East and a surge of remittances."

What really caught our attention was when she said: "In addition, the fact that the Philippines has a Mindanao close to the heart of the Middle East opens up opportunities not only for Mindanao but for the entire country."

One of the markets that Mindanao has not fully developed is the Middle East, with its countries having the rich "petro-dollar gold" but also for their markets to finance new facilities.

Opportunities for Mindanao

In recent years, countries in the Middle East, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, have seen its growth heights in terms of investments. However, it was only recently, though that Mindanao has started gaining significant access to the Middle Eastern market.

Based on the report of the Bureau of Customs in Davao, the Middle East was the third leading destination of exports from the Davao region, next only to Japan and Malaysia.

Middle Eastern countries imported, mainly fresh bananas from the Davao Region in September. The shipments were worth about $4,209 million with a volume of 17,758 million-metric tons. The figure even excluded the bananas imported by the United Arab Emirates, which were valued at $447,321.

Even canned pineapple fruit imported 208,621 million MT of goods worth $4,105 million from the Davao Region, particularly fresh fruits like papaya and pineapple.

Possible investments

The figures would have been bigger had other figures from other regions were available. Nevertheless, the figures already indicate that the Middle East markets have started taking notice of Mindanao as a big producer of products that their people need, particularly as a supplier of food products.

Another notable development was the recent visit of a technical team from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia whose task was to find areas where the country can invest.

The seven-member team, headed by Ahmed M. Alfaidhan of the King Abdulaziz University of Commerce and Industry, arrived in Davao City late last month. They proceeded to Mati City, the capital of Davao Oriental, to discuss with Governor M. Malanyaon the possibility of investing in rice and cocoa production. Gov. Malanyaon introduced Engr. Mercy Mirasol and Mr. Denise Fabian gladly briefed the visitors about the province.

The development should encourage the people of Mindanao, particularly its leaders, to consider bolstering joint commodity trade between Mindanao and the Middle East. People in Mindanao, particularly its local government and business leaders, should start discussing with leaders of the countries within the Middle East region where they can invest to help the island fully develop its potentials.

These countries are known for their help in achieving peace in Mindanao as most of their countries are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). This is the body that has facilitated peace talks between the Moro rebel groups and the government.

I believe they are also interested in helping Mindanao develop into one big producers of the products that they will need, from food, handmade toys, gifts and housewares to furniture and handicrafts. Mindanao can also be an alternative for medical tourism, cultural adventure and recreation.

If plans push through, the Middle East would then become one of the best partners of Mindanao not only in business but also in opportunity to peace and development.

Atty. Bagani Alonto Alauya is advocate for the development of the region. She is chair of Atty. Bagani Foundation (www.attybaganialonto.com), president, PhL Call Centers Alliance and Advocates Task Force to Handle Arabic, Mindanao Representative, Zagum Development Council. E-mail comments to bhan2@yahoo.com.

Waterfront gets 3-month debt reprieve from PNB

P739.6-M loan to be paid on or before Feb. 19

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK HAS given the Gaisbulan family's hotel chain Waterfront Philippines Inc. until Feb. 19 next year to pay P739.6 million in past due loans to avoid the foreclosure of its flagship hotel in Cebu.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, WPI subsidiary corporate secretary Ameen Akbar Jr. said the company had reached an agreement with PNB, creditor bank and it gone to court to take over WPI's Cebu assets, to settle the unpaid loan.

Under the agreement, WPI will pay PNB million upon the execution of the restructuring agreement, with the balance of P739.6 million plus interest and legal expenses to be settled on or before Feb. 19.

"However, this is still awaiting approval/clearance/approval by the court," Akbar said.

Builder WPI not PNB was willing to provide the details of the deal. The amount owed by PNB formed part of the P1.6 billion its accounts payable on WPI's books as of end-September. Other WPI creditors are state-owned Social Security System and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

In its latest management discussion report, WPI said the sharp dollar fluctuation had adversely affected business in the first three quarters of the year. Its hotel occupancy rate declined to 63 percent from January to September from 63.21 percent a year ago.

WPI, which has about P8 billion in assets, owns and operates the Cebu City Casino Hotel Inc. in Cebu City Waterfront Mactan Casino Hotel Inc. in Mactan, Cebu, and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao Inc. in Davao City. It also has a controlling interest in Asiatic (Phils.) Hotel Corp., which operates under the trade name Manila Pavilion Hotel, now a part of the Valle, its first group of hotels.

Before this compromise agreement, PNB threatened to foreclose WPI's euro bonds in Cebu and filed foreclosure proceedings with the Lapu-Lapu Regional Trial Court.

The PNB loan represented a P39-million long-term debt contracted by WPI in 1997 to partly finance the construction of the Cebu City Hotel project.

Following the unprecedented peso devaluation against the dollar that rendered corporate borrowers, such as WPI, unable to meet restructuring terms, deals resulting in the conversion into pesos of the dollar loan.

Premier Capital buys 10% stake in PSE

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PREMIER CAPITAL VENTURE Corp., an investment house chaired by Sen. Miguel Coseteng, purchased by Sen. Miguel Coseteng, and chair Ramon S. Ang, has acquired a 10-percent stake in the Philippine Stock Exchange last week for P334 million, sources said.

The seller, according to PSE sources, is the group of Londoner-based hedge fund giant GLG Partners Ltd.

GLG has been bleeding from losses arising from its hedge funds operations, forcing it to halt redemption or withdrawals by investors from some of its investment funds to manage more than $23 billion in assets.

Last month, GLG told the New York Stock Exchange that it had $95 million in exposure to the Lehman Brothers Group. The amount, however, was less than 1 percent of its net assets under management.

Data from the PSE showed that a block sale reflecting the sale was conducted at the stock market on Nov. 20. The deal involved 2.78 million shares sold for P120 apiece or a total of P333.66 million.

The GLG Group, through GLG Emerging Markets Special Investment Fund, also sold roughly a 7-percent stake in local online brokerage firm Chinkeetsi.com. This involved 10 million shares at P2.80 a share.

Ang, in a text message to the sources, said the PSE deal was a personal investment. Ang is chairman and president of Premier Capital.

Shares of PSE closed on P145 a share yesterday, down 9% from the previous day close of P151.

It reached a high of P1,140 per share early this year, data from the PSE showed.

Last year, San Miguel Corp. Retirement Plan, the employee pension fund of SMC, sold its entire 9-percent stake in the PSE to GLG Emerging Markets Special Situations Fund, making about P962 million.

In 2004, the SMC Retirement Plan bought PSE shares for P139.50 a share.

ICTSI secures P6.85B in loans

By Riza T. Olchondra

INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERminal Services Inc. announced yesterday that it had secured multiyear term loans amounting to P6.85 billion from local lenders.

In a statement, the listed port operator said the loans had maturity of five to seven years. They were provided by Philippines-based commercial banks and international investors.

The loans, according to ICTSI, will be used to finance investment projects and the prepayment of debt in 2008.

ICTSI's programmed consolidated capital expenditures for 2008 was set at P1.1.63 billion.

"Establishing such a term financing platform, particularly during this period of challenging credit situation, assures that ICTSI has the appropriate capital structure to deliver on our investment program. It is also a testament to the strengths of the company and the confidence of the financial markets in ICTSI and its objectives," said company CFO Ma (0) o (79)o.

ICTSI posted a 45.4-percent growth in gross revenue in the first nine months of the year to P15.22 billion from P10.61 billion in the same period last year.

Its net profit grew 11.3 percent to P5.2 billion in the same period from P2 billion a year ago.

The company, however, said it was adopting a cautious stance regarding its financial prospects for 2009.

"We remain cautious concerning the outlook for the global economy and would-smile, and are taking steps to position ourselves accordingly," ICTSI chair Enrique K. Razon Jr. said in an earlier statement.

Philippine-based ICTSI has a global portfolio of terminals in 11 countries in four continents. The 20-year-old company continues to pursue opportunities around the world. It still is in the start of construction works in the West of Buenaventura in Colombia.

New airline to start Clark-Macau service

SPIRIT OF MANILA, A NEW ALL-Filipino-owned airline, will start flying from the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga to Macau next month.

The airline, which will be managed by a group composed of former officials of Philippine Airlines, will use a Boeing 727 jet for the Clark-Macau flight.

In an interview, Spirit of Manila corporate communications head Edu Apolonio said the airline had two sister in medium-haul aircraft.

"We don't have a particular date [for the start of the Clark-Macau service] yet since we have put the application from the Civil Aeronautics Board. We can fly to Macau [on] and then to Taipei," he said.

Spirit of Manila also obtained permission to fly to three destinations in the Middle East. The company may acquire wide-bodied, long-haul airplane aircraft for the Middle East service.

In a statement, the airline said it received permission to operate from the CAB on Nov. 20.

Spirit of Manila was established in January 2008 to provide budget flights for international air travel-ers, particularly those based in Northern and Central Luzon.

Northern and Central Luzon has some 2.1 million overseas Filipino workers whose total remittances amount to $5.6 billion a year, or about 40 percent of the total $14 billion sent home by OFWs yearly.

Passenger traffic at the DMIA is expected to grow to two million by the end of this year from 500,000 last year. Rina T. Olchondra

Imports . . .

$237.2 million from only $173.68 million to September last year.

Imports of transport equipment rose 8.3 percent to $203.86 million while iron and steel jumped 65 percent to $109.23 million.

Other top imports for the month, according to the NSO, were chemicals ($95.82 million), plastics ($89.71 million), telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery ($76.29 million), and nonferrous metal ($69.87 million).

The United States remained the Philippines' biggest source of imports, accounting for $615.94 million. The Philippines exported $644.65 million worth of goods to Japan in September, resulting in a trade surplus of $39.72 million for the Philippines.

Other top sources of imports in September were Saudi Arabia ($558.72 million), Singapore ($469.33 million), China ($378.27 million), South Korea ($277.85 million), Thailand ($215.96 million), Vietnam ($211.92 million) and Hong Kong ($168.9 million).

S&P sees RP growth . . .

upper bargain hunting.

In its outlook for the Asia Pacific investment yesterday, S&P said emerging market economies would significantly weigh down on growth in the coming year, but factors such as intra-regional trade, supportive policymaking, and still-robust forecasts for China and India were seen helping the region navigate the global storm.

S&P has preserved that the Philippines, in particular, would grow at a slower pace of 3.3-3.8 percent next year from an estimated 3.8-4.3 percent this year. In 2007, growth hit a 31-year high of 7.3 percent.

Philippine inflation, on the other hand, was projected to average 8.8-9.3 percent this year before easing to 5.3-5.8 percent next year.

S&P Asia-Pacific chief economist Subir Gokarn observed that regional growth drivers such as strong domestic demand in China and India and the supportive monetary policy stances of the region's governments would enable most economies to export-ease positions albeit slowing, growth in 2009.

The Philippines was cited as among the countries whose central banks were likely to ease monetary policy to support growth next year.

Excise tax . . .

short, cutchers lost such obesity.

The DOF also noted that the Department of Health should first come up with a study saying that soft drinks were indeed bad for one's health before pursuing the beginning an excise tax on syrups used for the manufacture of soft drinks.

No excise tax is imposed on a product whose manufacture exemption should be discontinued.

According to the 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, households from all income levels spend less than one percent of their income on soft drinks. Michelle V. Remo

LIFESTYLE Food

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Salted duck egg ice cream, anyone?

Pampanga's legendary bakery is now in Manila

RATING INDEX

Poor

Good

Excellent

THIS WEEK WE FOCUS ON A CHAIN THAT has made its name via its Italian fare, a province-based enterprise that dared join the crowded fitness Manila cuisine of eateries, offering the rare Red Egg ice cream, and a fine restaurant serving authentic Thai food executed by a bonafide chef!

Cibo

We visited Cibo on the second level of Alabang Town Center (tel. 8427289). This chain is all over Metro Manila, and has gained big following from pasta and pizza lovers.

Dining area. It has a long table against the wall and a few others scattered in the small but functional space. The glass wall has yellow stick-ons printed in black with names of dishes and ingredients. The place is always bustling with patrons coming in and out.

For an overflow, tables and chairs are set outside, right in front of the restaurant.

Staff. Always ready with the menu and take orders quickly. They are in white shirts and black trousers. Polite and efficient.

Service. Fast as expected. Requests for split orders are accommodated.

Suggested Meal. No one can go wrong by starting with a refreshing drink of either Red or White Grape Shake. Then choose your first course. This Quiet Diner opted for Alfonso Crostini with Spinach Feta, followed by Penne Alla Thermidina, pasta cooked with sausages, cream and fennel. We pronounced the meal with Torta di Cheese Mista, almond cake with Raspberry preserve with brewed coffee. Great meal, really.

Usual charges (service and government

SALVIN MOOK SJ

The Quiet Diner

Resto at a glance

IT'S TIME TO SAY THANK YOU!!

SM celebrates Thanksgiving with exciting events and offers.

Thanksgiving Day food masterpiece. Awards up for grabs include Best in Taste, Most Unique Recipe and Our Most Popular Dish.

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING AT SM!

NOVEMBER 27 IS THANKSGIVING DAY.

Shop for your Thanksgiving dinner or say thank you to your family, friends and all those dear to you with a Thanksgiving celebration at SM Supermalls!

THANKSGIVING DINING DELIGHTS

FOODCOURT SPECIALS

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND SERENADE

SM SUPERMALLS

SM CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Two exceptional breakfasts

IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME TO savor breakfast, early morning. From the Cagayan de Oro airport, we were directly to the venue, a wet market which residents have named Cogon.

Several long tables and chairs were set for diners—those who go there to break their overnight fast and tourists like us who heard about their great breakfast.

We didn't know what to expect. Would we have the pancakes that were cooking on a big griddle, colored too yellow to be considered delicious, much less safe? That vast griddle just kept on walking past the pancakes to a sea of tables.

One vendor looked like she owned the particular station we gravitated to. She was pouring milk into a cup of chocolate drink, pausing from the one quite high, making like an Italian chef.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

scallop or sea vendor Lane; she took a big bamboo (pandan mat) and placed it inside a huge pot, not a tea or coffee pot but a huge one. She started to stir to make a frothy beverage, a mere dozen or much way to make late!

Watch how she does the tablea or chocolate, our many-old. She took one empty can of milk that had its paper label removed and the top cut off with a can opener but leaving a tiny piece still attached. In that empty can she placed the chocolate order then closed the top. A great swirling example.

'Puto maya'

With our chocolate, we ordered puto maya. One of the vendors put it together expertly. She wrapped out the sticky rice concoction from a pot, placed the portion into a banana leaf then wrapped it into a triangle. It went very well with the chocolate beverage.

Puto maya, the way it is cooked in the Cagan market, uses both white and violet sticky rice simmered and then steamed again with ginger, ground coconut, sugar, salt and water. The aroma is certainly of ginger but the distribution of flavors is so controlled, the rice cake comes out a bit bland. That makes a good accompaniment to the simmered chocolate drink.

Puto maya reminds me of another breakfast, this time in Bohol, at a resort called Jal which unhappily is no longer there. But it was very different from the Cogon vendor because it was more pure than just sticky rice, white in color and with a measure of grated coconut and sugar in between two slices of the puto.

That Bohol breakfast also included a thick chocolate drink, salmon, and so many pieces of dried fish, pulutan. My hosts decided to make me taste almost the whole range of cuisine available. I remember being bewildered by how much I had to taste in one morning.

Sea treasures

The American tourists who we met to our table said that my food was infinitely more interesting than their continental breakfast. It was to become even more interesting when a toast brought to a basket of fresh catch just in from the sea.

It turned out to be sea urchin. A tap of the knife and a piece of the shell on top was gone. The soupy inside was waiting to be sipped either with a teaspoon or straight from the shell. When the Americans took my offer to taste the sea urchin, their faces showed how sure they were that their breakfast didn't count for much.

I had been asked the night before if I savored mayon or marahi; the local words for sea urchin. When I said yes, it was like an order to get those sea treasures right away, even if it was breakfast time. I had no idea that the man I noticed diving so early was really out to do my bidding, getting my sea urchin from the sea to the table.

I'm waiting for the next breakfast adventure to hear those sea experiences. Spoiling will still do it for me if Charlie's sauces is for sure yes.

E-mail ginny3mail@yahoo.com

Salted duck egg ice cream, anyone?

From page C1

sauce) are imposed.
Rating -

People's Palace

Ground Level, Greenhill 3, facing the Chapel. The rooms could evoke Orleans ambience, but no, this serves Thai and very well, kudos to the Scottish chef.

Dining area: Bright and airy. It is one big hall done in sparkled white and 'earth and tan', no dividers in between, no sections except the little nook up at the end of the hall. High ceiling, good acoustics.

Staff: Attentive, unobtrusive, efficient, knowledgeable. There are enough of them so that customers do not wait long for attention.

Service: We like the modern crockery, slightly dry dinner plates, etc. Orders are taken as soon as one gets seated and food comes fast.

Suggested meal: To start, order the Lemongrass-Ginger Infused Tea, then try the popular Crispy Fish (from) Salad, with mangoes and special dressing. We treat here most unconsciously carbo-loading that we had Rice with Satpang (only a hint) and the traditional Phad Thai Noodles. This we reinforced with an order of Crispy Pork Fillet with Red Curry. The usual Thai dessert (Thai Thales) is no longer there so the familiar banana leaf squares. It is now served in regular star rice bowl, more substantial. Our barking is usual classic. The coffee list is a bit funny, instead of using "&" to signify a different blend, the + sign is placed between the choices. So we got confused with the line: "Espresso + Latte". We thought this was new, but the waiter was quick to clarify. Anyway, our friend could not help blurting out "Delicious" after the meal.

Email changes are imposed.
Rating -

Pampanga legend

Ricchie's Recipes of La Modernia, Pampanga, the newest dining room store in Greenhills, has "migrated" from its base in Sonquita, Pampanga, where La Modernia Bakery has earned a niche with its famous old-fashioned biscuits and breads.

The new venture is on the ground floor of the Health Color building, 22th Wilson, Greenhills, Mandaluyong. (tel. no. 385-6087/644-7555).

Dining area: Small, therefore cozy. Can accommodate no more than 20 diners. The interior is done in off-white with touches of yellow. The tables and chairs are arranged from the entrance to the steward portion where the store is.

Staff: Three gracious girls in tattoo uniforms were with honest aprons.

Service: More like one is eating in a non-air-conditioned restaurant. Orders are taken, after one scans out his or her choices from the food manners, preparation of plated meals is quickly executed.

Suggested meal: So Rib, flavorful food. This diner began our meal with refillable Ice Pinches Tea. Then we had Bulbotong (tapahina, Beef Caldereta, cooked slowly with mushroom gravy a meal in natural flavor and the Chicken Tropical, all Pampanga specialties. The unique Red Egg Ice Cream, yes the salted egg, made into a cheese-tasting concoction, capped our meal.

Buy and take home bakery products from the store. Hazelin some people grew up with but are now rare, are there—like the Gorgonia, the Sampaguita and the Sea Breeze. Great to bring home to family and ideal to give as Christmas presents. Go visit Rambo's, have a satisfying meal and select goodies to give this holiday season.

Email changes are imposed.
Rating -

Lucban 'hardinera'

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

Southern Tagalog version of meat loaf is a test of a cook's skill

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

WHILE MOST MEAT LOAVES have ground meat as base, there's a kind of meat loaf in Lucban that instead uses diced pork. Called *hardinera*, it's unique in other ways as well. For one thing, it's cooked in a *llanera*, an oval pan commonly used for *leche flan*. For another, it is not baked in an oven, like most meat loaves, but is instead steamed.

What also makes it different is the garnishing of hard-boiled eggs, bell pepper strips and pineapple slices that go into the bottom of the pan. When inverted once serving platter, these garnishing form a colorful topping. The beaten raw eggs poured into the *llanera* form a casing that gives the hardinera the look of an aspic.

With all the ingredients of this dish, it is not easy to make. That is why says Tina David of Pancake Travel and Tours, which specializes in Southern Tagalog region tours, the hardinera is usually served only during fiestas and special occasions.

It is the dish by which a cook's skill is tested, because it must have the perfect balance of ingredients. The most commonly known paste bahlsh, says restaurateur and caterer Milinda Bedo-Webb, is ordinary liver for Lechon Sisi, who are known throughout Quezon as good cooks.

Until Nov. 30, Hotel InterContinental's Café Ilongay is serving a buffet of Southern Tagalog specialties such as the hardinera. Call 7917980 for the menu cycle of the buffet.) Also part of the buffet are the culinary creations of chef Fred Poblador of Bistro Soleil.

Lechon Hardinera

¼ c cooking oil, divided
1 onion, chopped
2-3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 kilo pork kasim, diced into cubes (See tips.)
1 tbsp salt
½ tsp pepper
1-2 c pork broth (See tips.)
1 c tomato sauce
1 c finely diced sweet mixed pickles or pickle relish
½ c diced breadfruit
1/3 c raisins
1 c canned pineapple tidbits, well drained
1 small can red pimientos, drained and diced
1-05-g can liver spread (1/3 c)
½ c grated Cheddar cheese
1 c bread crumbs
2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
2/4 canned pineapple slices, each cut in to 3-4 pieces
1 small green bell pepper, cut into five strips
1 small red bell pepper, cut into five strips
5 raw/cooked eggs

Grease 3-4 small *llanera* and line with banana leaves or with nonstick baking paper for ease.

Heat 2 tbsp oil in a large pan and sauté onions and garlic about one minute (do not let garlic burn). Heat remaining 2 tbsp oil and add pork. Season with salt and pepper and stir-cook pork until brown.

Pour in pork broth and tomato sauce and simmer until pork is tender, about 15-20 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.

Meanwhile, mix together pickles, breadfruit, raisins, pineapple tidbits, red pimiento, liver spread, cheddar cheese and bread crumbs. Add the cooled pork. Do not include the sauce to which it was cooked. (See tips.) Mix until well-combined.

Arrange slices of hard-boiled eggs, pineapple, and green and red pepper strips on the bottom of the prepared *llanera*. Beat the 5 eggs and pour into *llanera*, distributing equally. Spoon the pork mixture equally among the *llanera*, pressing up on sides.

Cover tops of *llanera* with foil and steam in a large steamer for about 45 minutes or until firm. If the four *llanera* do not fit into the steamer, cook them in batches (two at a time).

To serve: Run a spatula or the dull edge of a knife along the sides of *llanera* to loosen the *hardinera*. Invert onto a serving platter and tap *llanera* lightly to release the *hardinera*. Remove *llanera* and peel off banana leaves or baking paper before serving.

TIPS

- *Llanera* are small, oval-shaped aluminum pans often used for making *leche flan*. This recipe makes enough to fill four small *llanera*.
- If *llanera* are not available, you can use loaf pans. The recipe can probably fill two loaf pans.
- The pork should be diced into pieces slightly smaller than that used for menudo.
- To make pork broth: boil one pork broth cube (or one pork bouillon cube) in 2 c water until cube dissolves. Use as per direction above.
- Instead of pork broth, you can use plain water.
- If desired, use the broth and the tomato sauce in which the pork was simmered as sauce. Simmer in a small saucepan. Dissolve 1 tbsp cornstarch in ¼ c water and pour into sauce. Season to taste with salt, pepper and liquid seasoning. Simmer until slightly thick. Add one to 2 tbsp butter and heat until butter dissolves. Serve with the *hardinera*.
- Drain the canned pineapple tidbits and the canned pineapple slices very well so mixture doesn't become soggy.
- Since this recipe requires a lot of ingredients, it helps to have a checklist. As you add each ingredient, tick it off the list. That way, you know exactly which ones have gone in and which still needs to be added.

Holiday party packages

FOR THE HECTIC but happy holiday season, Chili's has prepared 15 party packages to suit different budgets, personalities and age groups.

Handle Free Party's amazing choice of set menus and buffet packages begin at P375 per head for adults and P170 for kids. You can even mix and match the food and drinks or customize your own menu from Chili's extensive selection.

A minimum of 30 guests qualifies for Chili's party package areas. Chili's will provide the festive fixings—welcome banner, balloons, invites and the use of their sound system—for free.

Book your child's fabulous party site by appointment to your liking. Or choose from five set menus when you don't have the time to create your own menu.

Enjoy the free WiFi Internet connection, no purchase requirement, when you visit any Chili's today.

Call Chili's in Makati and Trends Strata in Northeast Greenhills (721-2859), Greenhills in Santa Cruz, Malate (812-2222), and Tomas Morato in Quezon City (3726047).

Hot meals on wheels

THROUGH CONGS BULLETIN HOT Meals on Wheels delivery system, well-loved restaurant meals are brought directly to their customers' dinner table, conference table or wherever they choose to. With a minimum order worth P500, they get a free Nestea tumbler when they order for a total of 1000 tea for an additional P75. Delivery customers can choose from the restaurant's extensive list of mouthwatering selections which include appetizers, seafood, steaks, soups, grilled meats, specialty drinks and other authentic native Filipino favorites. Deliveries and off-premise catering services can be made at the following Congo Grille outlets: El Pueblo, Glorietta Making, SM Fairview, Trinoma, SM San Lazaro, SM Mall of Asia, SM Sta. Rosa, SM Clark and SM San Fernando.

SPECIAL DINNER

The Richmonde Grill serves special dinner for only P575+. The menu includes Quenelle Trio with Cold Vegetable Salad and Pita Crisps. For the main course, choose from Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breast Roast with Maple Reduction, Braised Pinoy rice and Cherry Compotee or White Snapper with Primavera Risotto, Lime and Butter Fluee and Royal Chocolate Mint Marquee for dessert. Call 6809811 or 6307171 local 2489.

Lunch and dinner buffet

Enjoy sumptuous lunch and dinner buffet at The Red Crabs Seafood Club, 3/L, Greenbelt 3. Call 7574128 or 7574116 for reservations. The buffet offers Asian, Spanish, American and modern Filipino dishes.

Mouthwatering appetizers

Restaurant Ventana offers appetizers like Organic Mozzarella Cheese Pizzand The Fresh Shucked Alska Oysters served chilled with Ginger Shallot Granita, Classic Mignonette Dip and Horseradish Cocktail Sauce. The buffet is available from 12 noon-3:30 p.m. (lunch) and from 6-10 p.m. (dinner) for only P795. Children five years old and below can enjoy the Thanksgiving buffet for free. Call 8888777 local 5865.

FREE DISH ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Gumbo customers Thanksgiving Day by offering a complimentary dish, Fish & Chips, one of the restaurant's famous dishes to all guests who will order a meal, starter with the same or higher value. Promo runs until Mar. 31. Call 5568238, 4428 464 and 8811928.

TERIYAKI BOY'S FLAGSHIP RESTO REOPENS

Teriyaki Boy Inc just reopened its flagship store along Tomas Morato Street in Quezon City with a new look—nipper, more modern, a lot more vibrant. A preview of Teriyaki Boy's new interiors has been unveiled at Teriyaki Boy's Hot Quad branch in Global City. All 27 of the chain's branches will be renovated until 2009, with a third scheduled for completion by the end of the year. But Teriyaki Boy's new look can only be seamlessly what's on its menu. Aside from bestsellers like Teriyaki Boy Chicken, the restaurant's dedicated R&D team will consistently offer new items both traditional and innovative. Among the new dishes offered are Teriyaki Boy Nato Chips, Crunchy Salmon Salad, and soon, Japanese Curry and Hayaki items.

FREE SUPREME SAMPLER

In celebration of Thanksgiving Day, Burgoo is offering a free Supreme Sampler—a combination of Burgoo's well-loved appetizers such as Fried Calamari, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Mozzarella Sticks, Sizzling Pesto Spring Rolls and Onion Rings—for every order of main entrée with the same or higher value. Offer is good until Nov. 30. Call 8377424, 4384845, 4876524, 7263059, 9136112, 3560891 or 6134256.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Restaurant 5 celebrates Thanksgiving Day today with a lavish lunch and dinner buffet. Gourmet, fashioned Roast Tom Turkey with Bibimbo Butter Stuffing main serve more savory with Roasted Shallot Pan Wine Gravy and Cranberry Sauce will take center stage at the Buffet counter along with Restaurant 5's international selection. Desserts which include Maple Pumpkin Tart, Gourmet Cakes and classic American Apple Pie plus a Crepe Station with dessert fillings cap off the Thanksgiving feast.

COOL TREATS

As an early Christmas gift treat yourself and your loved ones to a yummy Towering Parfait only at Edsins Bistro Cream Diner and Chocolate Spoon Ice Cream Cafe. It's treats heavenly delicious with your favorite fruits or fruits. Choose from Chocolate Parfait, Strawberry Parfait, Black Forest Parfait, Cheese Parfait and Mango Peach Parfait. Other delightful and mouthwatering ice-cream treats, plus sumptuous snacks and dishes are also available. Edsins Bistro Cream Diner is at Sun Miguel By the Bay, Aseana SM Mall of Asia, and Iconic Cream Cafe is at Robinsons Manila Midtown.

SPECIAL DINNER

The Richmonde Grill serves special dinner for only P575+. The menu includes Quenelle Trio with Cold Vegetable Salad and Pita Crisps. For the main course, choose from Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breast Roast with Maple Reduction, Braised Pinoy rice and Cherry Compotee or White Snapper with Primavera Risotto, Lime and Butter Fluee and Royal Chocolate Mint Marquee for dessert. Call 6809811 or 6307171 local 2489.

HOME WORLD
holiday entertaining
with ZEBRA servers
SAVE 10%
SM
50

Life is Cool.
LG
Life's Good

MUST TRY DISH

Crustacio offers Singaporean Chili Crab with Fried Buns. Crustacio branches are in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, tel. 7259463; 6/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 7136896; 7th Floor, SM Megamall, tel. 6345; and Corner de La Paloma, Alabang Town Center, tel. 7722968.

À la carte buffet at Sorye

Sample amazing à la carte buffet at Sorye Restaurant and Café tucked inside Eastwood City in Libis. Indulge in a delightful medley of Filipino dishes uniquely prepared to satisfy your taste for good food. Until Dec. 15, you can enjoy-as-you-please buffet for only P499++ per person. Dishes include Sizzling Thai-ng Bangus, Sizzling Pork Sisig, plus Sorye's fresh-off-the-grill favorite barbecues, appetizers, hearty meals, cakes and pastries. Call 911 1234 or 911 1868, or text 0917-8969234.

Cake central opens

FOR YEARS, CUSTOMERS HAVE BEEN buying cakes, pies and other delectable goodies from Kitchen's Best, a home-based bakeshop.

Now Kitchen's Best has a newly opened patisserie in Eastwood Plaza, Libis Tuno Extension, Makati. It has Mango Hazels, Plazir Torte, White Chocolate Macadamia Strudel, Cassatta and the award-winning Banana Toffee Pie. Other goodies are fudge brownies, almond brittle, peanut butter bars and nibbles and French butter cookies.

Chef-owner Marilyn Tungon, a graduate of La Varenne Pâtisserie and Culinary Institute of America in California, says all their cakes are made daily. Available for dine-in, they can also be ordered for gift giving. The special packaging of gold and crimson makes those gifts even more impressive.

Kitchen's Best also offers cocktail platters and party trays such as a platter of smoked chicken, tuna, mini pie and quiche, fruit tart platter and French dessert samples. Kitchen's Best is at Unit 3H, Building B, Barrio's Plaza, 23 Libis Tuno Extension, Makati City, the patisserie also serves meals and snacks. Call 3618318, 6433847 or 0917-8966345.

CAKES from Kitchen's Best

LIFESTYLE Food

From big steaks and 'pan de red' to dark choco mousse

For Christmas party potluck, there are also Hyper Pizza and other yummies

CHEFS ANDREW CHUA AND Jeremiah Go are grilling the largest steak, the 1.3-kg Tomahawk Chop, at their week-old restaurant along Tomas Morato called 145°F.

The restaurant is named after the internal temperature of their steaks, which they claim is good for three to four persons, though I could say huge enough for six.

The steak and seafood house is a pursuering of 15 friends who are steak lovers.

For wanting to eliminate the non-meat eaters, they also specialize in seafood. Their crab cakes are made from pure crab meat, perfectly crisp on the outside, nice and moist on the inside. Yum!

The restaurant thrives on a unique

THE 1.3-KILOGRAM Tomahawk Chop

KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aquino

"CAVIAR PIE"
Call for
Mellisse's Caviar Pie
Tel # 385-2832
Or # 0927-5509072
Ask for Raquel or Jinky

AMBASSADOR Ramon del Tarroso with daughter Martinez Enriquez and grandson Dennis Tarroso

AMBASSADOR TANTOCO hosts grand opportunities opening

Basic and gourmet goods under one roof in QC

Supermarket chain brings goods selection (think chilled, not frozen, Australian meat), service (hourly shuttle) notches higher

By Anne A. Jamboro

RUSTAN'S SUPERMARket has opened its 23rd branch, this time on the lower ground level of El Terrazzo building, Tomas Morato and Scout Madrinan Streets in Quezon City.

Residents and workers can expect a healthy mix of local and international brands as Rustan's Supermarket puts better and gourmet products under one roof.

"We're not trying to be expensive here. We just want to bring to our customers the best quality we can find and sell it at its most affordable price," said Bonnie Tantoco, president of Rustan's Supermarkets Inc.

Tantoco said anyone could buy a decent bottle of Burgundy, for instance, which starts at P250 per bottle. Chilled Australian meat, he said, is one of the lowest priced in the market today. Rustan's, in fact, is the only supermarket in the country that supplies chilled, not frozen, Australian meat.

"We sell many fresh products. We pay a lot of attention to how the products we sell are produced and transported; our refrigeration here in the store is regularly checked on the clock. The working moms who come in to shop here know what we have to say for their children," Tantoco said.

For its First Week Offer, until Nov. 29, Rustan's Supermarket gives all shoppers a P300 cash voucher for every P5,000 purchase. First Payday Sale, Nov. 28-30, has discounts of up to 20 percent on select French items. In the spirit of the holiday season, limited-edition Annando bags will be given away for every P1,000 purchase from Dec. 6-12.

First Christmas Market, Dec. 25-26, will be giving away a Rudolph Pear-Shaped Ham for a purchase of P1,000 worth of any item. For New Year's Day, the Flat New Year Blowout, from Dec. 30-31, a purchase of wines and liquor worth P1,000 entitles one to a free bottle of sparkling wine.

Rustan's Supermarket also initiated Fine Soup, where CBSA and SBS-CBN employees can use daily electric services to and from the supermarket every hour, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

"Rustan's is known for its excellent customer service. Here on Tomas Morato, we bring the store closer to them," Tantoco said. "Going your groceries is necessary shopping, not recreational. We make shopping easier for our clients as much as possible."

Among the pioneers in providing Filipinos imported goods, Rustan's Supermarket canvassed many "firsts" in the country, including the first bayone, take-one promo, and the first to coin the term "suspension-keying." The newest branch only bolsters that the supermarket still continues to grow 35 years after its first inception.

"I don't think Rustan's is big enough. We should have more—about 100 branches nationwide," said the good-humored chair emeritus of Rustan's Supermarkets Inc., Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.

SPECIAL American corner of goods from the US

GOODS from Asia

"GROCERY shopping is a necessary task should be easy."

Rustan's Supermarkets are also located in Glorietta, Makati; Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati; The Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, QC; The Shangri-La Mall, Edsa, Pasig; San Antonio Plaza Arcade, Forbes Park, Makati; Greenbelt, Makati; Plaza de Magallanes on South Superhighway, Cerilecta, Mla; Ayala Center, Cebu City; and Ayala Heroes, Batasan, Cebu.

Strauss Society holds Puccini concert at Mandarin

THE JOHANN STRAUSS SOCIETY of the Philippines (JSSP), with the Italian Embassy, presents the Gala concert "Plaza Puccini" Dec. 28 at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental, Manila.

A tribute to renowned Italian composer Giacomo Puccini on his 150th death anniversary, the concert features select arias from some of his best operas, to be performed by star soprano Leah Salonga and tenor Francis Bartow, and Filipino soprano Rachelle Gonzales. Andrew Lloyd Heard is guest conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert will be performed against a spectacular backdrop of the Puccini Penthouse.

Supported by Mandarin Oriental, Swiss International Airlines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Crowne Plaza Shopman-agement Philo., the event caps the week-long Gastronomia della Lingua Italiana celebration organized by the Italian Embassy.

Tickets to the concert are available at the Lobby Shop of Mandarin Oriental. Call 7108888.

MONACO Consul Fortuna Alava Lobrona (seated, center), presidents of the JSSP hosts the opening ceremonies with Rowland Bolton (standing, far right) and Bella Chua (seated, far right) as co-chairpersons; Orbos (standing) Manila's Governor's GM Hubert Gaisbergen and director of communications Chartner Chaidan, Chin Goins, Consul of Gambia Agam Hollombua, Olga Severina Marisol, Margo Ortiz, Miguel Kanda (seated) Mrs Jardin, Cultur al Center of the Philippines president, Italian Ambassador Roberto Anna Fedele and Austrian Ambassador Herbert Jaeger

Christmas express

Relive the Belle of Christmas at The Heritage Hotel. Fancy over stuffed roast turkey with cranberry sauce, honey glazed ham and roast patina ala with red wine sauce at Riviera Café until Jan. 4, 2009.

On Dec. 7 and 14, attend the children's party and savor a luncheon buffet. Tim tim Bonoan will also storytelling and signing of her new children's book.

Visit Santa Barrios on Dec. 21, head off to Riviera Café and on Christmas Day. Save to usual Mexican. Catch the New Year's Eve dinner-dance and countdown's party. Call 8948888.

Animé master class

The Japan Foundation will host a master class by Japanese animation artist Taku Furukawa on Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m., at INT. activity area, De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, School of Design and Arts Campus, 900 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila. The class includes a lecture and film screening. Call 8191500-08 or e-mail animation.exec@gmail.com.

Marian procession

The 29th grand Marian procession will be held Dec. 7, 4 p.m., at Plaza de Roma fronting Manila Cathedral. Over 80 Marian images on floral-decorated carrozas will be the main attraction. Decal and Boosie Hidalgo shall stand as this year's Hermano and Hermana mayores.

Bazaar for moms

Expo Moms Bazaar will be held Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at Pinaglabanan Hall. For the first 200 visitors, Mommy Pages directory and family photo will be given away. Call 7138144, 7838898.

Paskong Pinoy 101

Manila Broadcasting Company will host Hang ng Pasko on Dec. 9-12 at Star City complex. Scholarship winners in each category will receive P100,000.

For the Hang ng Pasko lantern-making contest, entries must be submitted on or before Dec. 5. Winning entry will receive P100,000. Call 5800407, 8916-4131605.

Christmas bazaar

The Belle Verde 5 Mega Christmas Bazaar will be held Dec. 13, 14. Call 9867772, 0916-6089993, 0922-8996560.

GOINGS ON

From big steaks and 'pan de red' to dark choco mousse

CRISTINA'S Citrus Midnight Hazelnut Crunch and Limoncello

From page B1

partnership) where there are specific people for certain tasks such as managing the restaurant, supplying seafood and growing specialty vegetables. Of course, the chefs cook. The rest, I guess, are assigned to keep quiet.

If there is anything they are proud of, it is their open kitchen where diners can see the action. According to Edwin Sy, partner/operations grouse, the "restaurant's kitchen were televised by the reality TV show 'Hell's Kitchen.'" Surprisingly, the ambiance is fantastic! Even if they grill steaks non-stop, the place doesn't smell.

Their portions are huge and definitely for sharing. I recommend you try the grilled Ninga steak salad. And never leave 140°F without having dessert. If I were you, I'd immediately ask for two: Nutkiss! Call 332-7910.

BUDDY'S Dozen

Street Corner Bakery

Speaking of chef Andrew, apart from working at Brilliance and 140°F, he also owns Street Corner Bakery.

The bakery specializes in simmering (forgive Emeliannes' Filipino) breads. I love the rustic cream bread (generous sprinkling of pork floss over soft sweet dinner rolls), the flaky bagong batay, the pan de coco and the orange bread.

Their pan de red (bread stuffed with smooth red or purple filling) is nice too. You'll have memories of it. My only complaint is that the one by Street Corner Bakery tastes clean.

Somehow, there's something about street food that gives it a different taste and nostalgic experience. Like Bob Ong, the ones you eat at home will never be as good as the ones you eat at the barrio.

I'm sure many of you are expected to bring something to a Christmas party. When potluck rolls, chef Andrew has the perfect economical solution—Super Pizza!

It's 24 x 36 inches, enough to feed an army of 35 or, say, 50 Army ladies attending. Come in two flavors: Cheese Sensation and Three Deli Pizza. Call 556-3884 to 85 Street Corner Bakery outlets. Found at right: SM Hypermart locations.

From 1 1-kg steaks to pan de red, let's turn decisive in calorie that must be eaten with dessert forks, with your right pinky finger raised.

CHEFS Jeremiah Go and Andrew Chua of 1077

Edible gifts

No one does dessert buffets like Cristina Rivera. Lately, her passion for all things sweet—pastry, chocolates, bonbons, truffles—just seems to be on the upswing.

For Christmas, she developed a beautiful cake called Midnight Hazelnut Crunch, a rich dark chocolate mousse that rests a hazelnut crust. Topping it is an intricate disk of hand-stamped chocolate. Everything is edible, looks so pretty and tastes deadly.

Then there's her Limoncello. Considering I don't particularly like tart desserts, this is no-brainer. Nice and light.

Congratulations Cristina! Your work just seems to be getting better. Call [illegible]

Buddy's Dozen

The pastry chef to Hollywood stars, gold medalist chef Buddy Trinidad has his own collection of cakes called Buddy's Dozen. Perfect for holiday bulging! There's something for everyone.

The dozen includes Tiramisu, tiramisu cream with Baileys and espresso-soaked sponge cake; Dark Chocolate Hazelnut Crunch; White Cheesecake, white chocolate vanilla bean cream with fresh strawberries; Pistachio Mousse with cinnamon cream; Chocolate Cheesecake; Crunchy Peanut Butter Banana Coupon; Fresh Mango Passion Fruit Cake; Black Forest; Mini St. Honore; Lemon/Orange Butter Cream Cake; Sugar-free Three Belgian Chocolate Mousse and Sugar-free Cinnamon Apple Cinnamon Walnut Cake. Call 814-6508.

His new class schedules are out. The Gourmet Cuisinets Holiday Series for beginners and household cooks is ongoing. For inquiries, call 928-9286/09082272198.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

These Kings can really cook

PBA CHAMPS AND GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL Gin Kings Mod "Kid Lightning" Arnáiz, former Ateneo Blue Eagle Wacky Escalona, Jayjay "The Fearless" Helterbrand and Ronald "The Fearless" Tolentino cook close ties over Asian fusion Philippine Cup merienda to whip up dishes. Arnáiz's Chinese-Style Adobo, Escalona's Black and White Cupcakes, Helterbrand's Fruity Southwestern Barbecue Sauce and Tolentino's Kilawing Tagalog with a

CHINESE-STYLE Adobo

Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings can whip up a storm in the kitchen just as they do on court

dash or more of Supreme Cane Vinegar.

Kid Lightning's Chinese-Style Adobo

Ingredients:

½ k Monterey pork lomito, adobo cut

½ k Magnolia Fresh Chicken, cut into serving pieces

2 tbsp garlic, crushed

1 tbsp ground black pepper

2 tbsp sugar

1 pc bay leaf

½ c soy sauce

½ c Supreme Cane Vinegar

2 c water

1 dozen quail eggs, cooked hard boiled

Combine all ingredients in saucepan (except quail eggs). Cook over high heat until mixture comes to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and let simmer, covered for 45 minutes. Remove cover and cook for 5 minutes more for sauce to reduce and chicken. Add quail eggs in the last minutes of cooking.

Makes 8 servings.

Hanley's Black and White Cupcakes

Cupcake:

1 ½ c Puentebella Baron All Purpose Flour

1 tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda

½ c cocoa powder

1 c water

1 tbsp Supreme Cane Vinegar

1 tsp vanilla

1/2 c Magnolia Bakers Best Margarine, melted

1 ½ c brown sugar

Topping:

½ c Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened

¼ c sugar

1 pc egg

pinch salt

½ c dark chocolate chips for topping

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a bowl, combine flour, salt, baking soda and cocoa powder; set aside. In a bowl, combine water, vinegar and vanilla. Set aside. In another bowl, combine margarine and brown sugar. Mix well. Add flour mixture and water mixture. Mix well. Pour mixture into muffin tins until ½ full. Set aside. Prepare topping: Combine cream cheese and sugar in a bowl. Add brown egg and salt and mix well. Pour mixture on top of chocolate mixture. Top with chocolate chips. Bake for 18-20 minutes. Makes 16 pieces.

"The Fearless" Fruity Southwestern Barbecue Sauce

½ c crushed pineapple, including the syrup

½ c tomato ketchup

2 tbsp honey

1 tbsp soy sauce

2 tbsp Supreme Cane Vinegar

½ tbsp Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp garlic, minced

½ tsp ground black pepper

½ tsp dried thyme

Combine all ingredients in saucepan. Bring to a boil, turn down heat and let simmer for 3-4 minutes. This sauce can be used for chips or oven for broiling when grilling meats such as baby back ribs and pork liempo.

Makes ½ cup.

"The Fearless" Kilawing Tagalog

½ k Monterey beef sirloin, cut into thin strips

3 tbsp Magnolia Nuco-Oil

1 tbsp garlic, minced

½ c red onion, chopped

150 g tomatoes, seeded and diced

½ c Supreme Cane Vinegar

1 c water

½ k radish, cut into thin strips

1 tbsp + 1 tsp salt

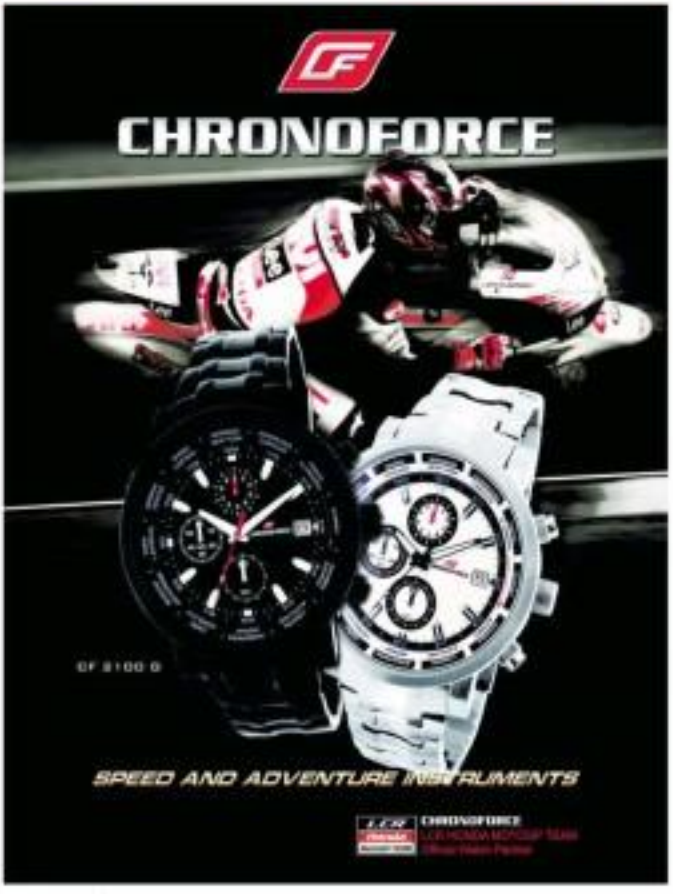
1 ½ tsp ground black pepper

Heat oil in a pan. Sauté garlic, onions and tomatoes. Add beef and cook until color changes into a light brown. Add vinegar and let boil (do not stir).

Add water and cook until sauce is reduced to half its original amount. Add radish and cook, covered until radish becomes soft. Season with salt and pepper.

Makes 6 servings.

MACKY Ravena takes a bite of his cupcakes.



ALEXIS
SM MALL OF ASIA | SM MEGAMALL | SM NORTH EDSA
WALTERMART MAKATI | ROBINSON'S PLACE PADRE FAURA
GLORIETTA 1 | ROBINSON'S PLACE METROWN MALL

Editor Ermie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Mobile-Based Text SMS DELIVERY SERVICE sold in 1000 Text Units | E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Mobile: www.inquirer.net/mobile/entertainment

Top rock acts cited tonight

FOR THE 15TH SO 107 ROCK Awards, Inicore Entertainment was represented in the panel of judges by master tandem/artist Pocholo Concepcion. The awards will be given out tonight at Silver City Fronteras Verde, Pasig.

Concepcion is predicting victory for at least two bands: Urbandub and Dan of Body Special.

According to Gitchbenzakaina, 92 network operations head, this is the first time that a band from Cebu, Urbandub, has been nominated in 10 categories including Artist of the Year, Song of the Year ("Fearless") and Album of the Year ("Under Southern Lights"). Five years ago, the group won Song of the Year honors with "Soulmedicine."

Concepcion finds rival of Body Special ... well, special. He explains: "It is not strictly a rock band, with R&B, hip

NEXT 11

PLDT smeNation Count on me, partner.

Page 01

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 TWILIGHT
2 TWILIGHT
3 TWILIGHT
4 BOLT
5 BOLT
6 SCAREGIVER
7 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT
8 indieBite: ACTIVE VISTA
9 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
10 ONE TRUE LOVE

ERMITA

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 TWILIGHT
4 SCAREGIVER
5 TWILIGHT
6 ERASERHEAD: REUNION CONCERT
7 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
8 ONE TRUE LOVE
9 PASSENGERS / SEX DRIVE

METRO EAST

1 BOLT
2 TWILIGHT
3 BOLT
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT
6 TWILIGHT
7 SCAREGIVER
8 ONE TRUE LOVE

NOVALICHES

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 ONE TRUE LOVE
4 SCAREGIVER

PIONEER

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 TWILIGHT
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

STA. ROSA

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 SCAREGIVER
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

LIPA

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVER
3 ONE TRUE LOVE
4 BOLT

DASMARIÑAS

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVER
3 BOLT
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

IMUS

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 SCAREGIVER
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

ANGELES

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVER
3 BOLT
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

STARMILLS

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVER
3 BOLT
4 ONE TRUE LOVE
5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
6 BURN AFTER READING

BACOLOD

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 SCAREGIVER
4 ONE TRUE LOVE
5 LIVING HELL
6 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT

ILOILO

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 SCAREGIVER
4 ONE TRUE LOVE
5 LIVING HELL
6 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT

SM CINEMA movietime

visit www.smcinema.com

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA
3:30 PM • 6:30 PM • 7:30 PM • 9:30 PM

SEA MONSTER
11:00 AM • 1:30

DINOSAUR 3D
2:00 PM

THE PODIUM

TWILIGHT

BOLT

LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1

BOLT

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

Live at SM cinemas!

Tickets available at TicketNet. Call 911-5555

Top rock acts cited tonight

from page E1

hop and jazz competing in multiple billboards. Whether or not MJ gave Q95 precious airplay on account of its prestigious appearance in Time magazine in 2007, one thing is clear: The station has endeared its support, not only of local acts, but of contemporary rock's diverging styles."

Speaking of Eros — at least four of the five New wave nominees are in the running in several categories. Out of Body Special Star six rock, including Artist of the Year, Album of the Year ("It Love"), Vocalist of the Year (Carlos Magno) and Remix of the Year (Mike Arvaldo). Angulo earned four nods, including Artist of the Year and Song of the Year ("The Best Minister"). Taken by Gerogot three nominations, including Album of the Year ("Darlings of a Lesser Kind"). Bellatrix is also vying for honors in three categories, including Guitarist of the Year (LCde Leon).

MJ Concha Anne Herrera declares with obvious pride: "At 21 years old, we're the only station that hasn't changed formats."

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 BOLT	2 TWILIGHT	3 SCREENSAVERS	4 ONE TRUE LOVE
GLORIETTA 4	1 BOLT	2 TWILIGHT	3 TWILIGHT	
	4 MADAGASKAR 2 / QUANTUM OF SOLACE	5 TWILIGHT	6 TWILIGHT	7 TWILIGHT
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE TRUE LOVE	2 TWILIGHT		
GREENBELT 3	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
	3 MADAGASKAR 2 / QUANTUM OF SOLACE	4 BOLT	5 TWILIGHT	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT		
	3 BOLT	4 MADAGASKAR 2 / QUANTUM OF SOLACE	5 TWILIGHT	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT	3 BOLT	4 ONE TRUE LOVE
MARKET! MARKET!	1 TWILIGHT	2 ONE TRUE LOVE		
	3 MADAGASKAR 2 / QUANTUM OF SOLACE	4 BOLT	5 SCREENSAVERS	
TRINOMA	1 ONE TRUE LOVE	2 BOLT	3 MADAGASKAR 2 / QUANTUM OF SOLACE	4 SHOWBIZ BIG HOLIDAY CONCERT
	5 TWILIGHT	6 TWILIGHT	7 TWILIGHT	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — ANSONS APPLIANCE FAIR, November 21–December 2, Glorietta Activity Center
- Greenbelt — GREENBELT 3 EXCLUSIVE SALE, November 21–23
- Alabang Town Center — 10TH CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP, November 28, Activity Center, 4pm
- Ayala Center Cebu — 0% INSTALLMENT BANKING, November 18 to 23, Rotunda Areas & Activity Center
- Market! Market! — CELEBRITY RECIPES SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SHOW, November 28, Activity Center
- Ayala Museum — Opening Philippines presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL: The Musical, November 16 to December 23, 2008
- Trinoma — ANSONS APPLIANCE FAIR, November 19–Dec 1, Activity Center; TRINOMA TECHNO CLASSICA, November 22, 23, 7pm, 4th level Trinoma Park

Murphy's Law

From page E3

which came crashing down — the guitars along with it. We stopped for 10 minutes, then resumed from the very top, which meant singing "The Sweetest Sounds" again. And then, "morning" her speech, Charlie Parker, our Baby Godmother, had the audience in the palm of her hand. It was disarming.

Technical snafus come with the territory — every performer and news person knows to expect them. It's great when technical glitches wrong, but at least we all have our heads in place when something does.

Shameless plug

My brother Gerard is headed back to the HB Cultural Center, this time to conduct the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for singer Lesbon. Performances are Dec. 22, 23 and 24 at 8 p.m., with an added matinee on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. Visit http://www.hkpo.com.

For some mental patients, life is like TV

NEW YORK — ONE MAN SHOWED up as a federal building, asking for release from the reality show he was sure was being made of his life.

Another was convinced his every move was secretly being filmed for a TV camera. A third believed everything — the news, his psychiatrist, the drugs they prescribed — was part of a phony, stage-set world with him as the involuntary star, like the 1998 movie "The Truman Show."

Researchers have begun documenting what they dub the "Truman syndrome," a delusion afflicting people who are convinced that their lives are secretly playing out on a reality TV show. Invasive are the disorder underscores the influence pop culture can have on mental conditions.

Perfect stares

"The question is really: Is this just a new twist on an old paranoid or grandiose delusion ... or is there sort of a perfect storm of the culture we're in, in which these beliefs [take] such high salience?" said Dr. Joel Gold, a psychiatrist affiliated with the Bellevue Hospital in New York.

Over a two-year period, Gold encountered five patients with delusions related to reality TV. Several of them specifically mentioned "The Truman Show."

Gold and his brother, a psychologist, started presenting their observations at medical schools in 2006. After word spread beyond medical circles this summer, they learned of about 50 more people with similar symptoms.

Meanwhile, researchers in London described a "Truman syndrome" patient in the British Journal of Psychiatry in August. The 26-year-old postman "had a sense the world was slightly unreal, as if he was the eponymous hero in the film," the researchers wrote.

The Oscar-nominated movie stars Jim Carrey as Truman Burbank. He leads a mostly uneventful life until he realizes his friends and family are actors, his seaside town is a TV sound stage and every moment of his life has been broadcast.

The struggle is over our reality and it makes it heartwarming, but, remembers say it's often horrifying for "Truman syndrome" patients.

One of Gold's patients planned to commit suicide if he couldn't leave his supposed reality show.

Walking webcam

Delusions tend to be dreadful by broad categories, such as the belief that one is being persecuted, but research has shown culture and technology can also affect them.

Several women in earlier times cherished delusions entwined with the harvest, such as a patient in Austria who believed she had become a walking webcam.

Joel Gold, a philosophy and psychology professor at McGill University in Montreal who has researched the cases with his brother, suggests reality TV and the Web, with their ability to make strangers into intimates, may compound psychological pressure on people who have underlying problems dealing with others.

AP

DID YOU KNOW...

'Legends'

PENNY POE Cousins (from L) Rhey Medina, Eva Rapanda, Sienna Zaldaga, Claire de la Fuente, Joey Albert and Hiro J. Pucio perform together in "Legends of DPM." Dec. 30 at 8 p.m. at the PICC. Limited promotions promise a show with non-stop original hits identified with each singer, with surprise productions members in between. Call 687-8301, loc. 420 and 710.

SPIN

Deal to put Beatles on iTunes stalled

LONDON — Paul McCartney said Monday negotiations on a long-awaited deal to make the Beatles' catalog available on the online music service iTunes have stalled.

"The last word I got back was it's stalled at the whole moment, the whole process," the former Beatle said. "I really hope it will happen because I think it should."

McCartney, who was speaking at the launch of his new album, Electric Arguments, added: "It's between EMI and the Beatles, I think."

The band's holding company, Apple Corps Ltd., has so far declined to allow the fab four's music on any Internet music service, including iTunes. The situation has been exacerbated by a long-running trademark dispute between Apple Corps and Apple Inc., which owns iTunes — a dispute that was resolved last year.

Record label EMI, which owns the Beatles' recordings, last month Apple Corps' permission to release the music in new formats, said it was still trying to resolve the matter.

An EMI spokesperson said: "The various parties involved have been unable to reach agreement but we really hope everyone can make progress soon."

AP

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ARGUIA

PUSAO BABOY — BY RH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LYNSMOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LYRA GARCIA LUNG

TULDOK — BY MARK COLL

KIKO MACHINE — BY MANNY ARIOLA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Alan P. Olschewing
Huntington Beach, CA
11/27/08

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ACROSS
1 By way of
6 Mimic
9 Maintain
14 Pinched
15 Ado
16 Wyldecrest's capital
17 Gentle drink
18 Start of a quip
19 Nursery follow
20 Italian money
22 Down a line
23 In your dreams!
24 Pirates
27 Part 2 of quip
28 Disagreeable woman
30 Sound
31 Distinct region
34 Human activity
37 Dyed
38 Main vein
40 Bulbs in oil
41 "Japanese title (Masaki's mom)
42 Fingers the "I Ching"
43 Trans. prefix
44 Part 3 of quip
47 Drives dangerously
48 Shelled
49 Roman stone arch bridge
52 Ionic Greek
53 Orchestra
54 End of quip
55 Mike ordinance
56 Tarantula's "Pop Goes the Weasel"
60 Blah-de-blah
64 Nonsense
65 Arena
66 "Uranium"
67 Wrestler's cry-ola
68 Of the quality
69 Mobile Station role

DOWN
1 Private media
2 Out on a storm
3 Pride again
4 Pep
5 Actress Silverstone
6 Utility
7 Land of Harmony and Idleness
8 What's left
9 Pregnancy counter
10 Changing wood
11 "Hush, Puppy" singer
12 Tinted lower
13 Trudges
21 Gentle giant's mother (pl.)
24 Mullah said
25 Carlotta cat
26 Agts.
29 Nickelodeon
32 Dog of yore
33 Early Navarro
35 Extract test
36 Small bread
39 Opposed to
40 Actor Arkin
42 Bird of prey
45 Supplement with attitude
46 Type of fold
47 "The Waste Land" auth.
50 The Greatest
51 Sheep sound
52 Digs
54 Slow down
57 You in Aurora
58 Rockefeller's 1970 company
59 Lots
60 Ornithologist
61 Lose many pounds
62 Hurts, colloquially
63 Fish preparation
67 Simple, in law
68 Take the lead
69 Mimic first

DAILY HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have two very keen feet; you are fast. People get excited around you. You are a natural leader. You avoid wall-sitting on decisions you sense what they need and want. Personal, particularly you sensitive of freedom! Family is important to you. Finding a balance between creativity and freedom is an important issue for you. Famous people born on this day: actor Richard Gere, actress Jennifer Lopez, actor Ben Affleck, musician Marvin Gaye, actor Georges Clooney.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's New Moon is the perfect time to set your goals and what best at be-

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Think about how you can reduce your work and how you can spend more time with friends and family. Financial prosperity and quality have magnificence. What do you need to do?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's a New Moon today. This is the perfect time for you to think about how to improve your partnerships and relationships. Is there anything you need to change?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): What can you do to improve your attitude toward your job? There are two questions you need to ponder today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Are you getting a decent balance between your work and your play? Is a good balance in your life? Are you working hard or smarting because of a lack of work-life balance?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's the New Moon in the perfect time to make resolutions. What can you do to improve your family relationships?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because you're New Moon is in your sign, it's a perfect time to make resolutions or set an intention. Why not take advantage of the today? Do you have what it takes to be successful?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good day to think about how well you're handling your finances and possessions. Do you have any investments, or do they need?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take a few moments to see how you can improve your monetary situation. Are you spending more than you earn? Are you a spend-thrift or a miser? Is a good balance between the two?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): New things are knocking on your door. Are you answering? Are you ready? Are you willing? Now is a good time to spend a few quiet moments getting in touch with your inner self.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Is this the New Moon to make a new start in your life? Are you living life to the fullest? Are you doing the best way to get friends or to be friendly?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): How are your relations with women, parents, and other authority figures in your life? Is your behavior above reproach? Do you get the respect you want?

DAILY SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

					9			
		9					5	
	7	5		2		1		8
3					7			2
		1				6		
9			5					1
2		6		3		5	1	
	9					2		
			8					

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/27

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.puzzles.com

Answer to previous puzzle:

6	8	2	5	3	1	4	9	7
1	7	3	4	6	9	2	8	5
5	9	4	1	8	7	3	6	2
4	5	8	2	7	6	9	3	1
3	6	7	9	1	5	8	2	4
9	2	1	3	4	8	5	7	6
7	1	5	6	9	4	7	1	3
8	4	6	7	5	3	1	4	9
2	3	9	8	2	1	6	5	8

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Commitment used to be the good guy

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net
Entertainment staff

BAD-BOOBIN ACTRESS LOST FAME AND because because she was known to be sexpot-ish-ed.

Now that she's hooked a bfriddity Hero, SIA is trying to stage a comeback — with PVR bankrolling a movie. So DH, no e-bay-night meeting with Archimedes Claravino.

For hours, AD waited in a room for SIA who was a no-show. AD would later learn that SIA hired another filmmaker.

Towering divas

A game of one-upmanship has ensued among the female stars of an upcoming movie, various an insider.

Since the other actresses refused to be upstaged by Samantha Sue, they wore very high heels in a big wedding scene. Jessy Actress even tried to balance on eight-inch heels.

Problem: in 3D, some stilettos, sex, and towel over all her re-entry — nude, female and everyone in between.

SS was so tall that, when it was time to release the doves in one take, the birds flew straight to SP head and Pamela's safe pouch on her hair.

Bickering divas

A feisty encounter that in the middle of a three-person concert two years ago, Jenny Screen Goddess almost engaged Pop Singer in a catfight.

That's because JSG told PS' hubby about her illicit affair with a European — the source of PS' unexplained wealth.

PS got miffed because her husband shunned her in Europe and flew back to Manila because of EQ's revelation.

RUSHES

Benefactor/adviser

Struggling Head has found a new benefactor.

After being linked to a Female Prince, JH is now the legal help of a Closeted Host.

CH also acts as career adviser to JH. Anyone who wants to hire JH needs CH's approval.

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goddess on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

● Lani Rue, on why she's not insecure: Body-consulting any actress too with Jolo Revilla.

KIM Chui: "Waiting commitments, nothing serious."

● Kim Chiu, asked if she has problems with Gerald Anderson: "Wala naman kaming problema. Nagkakasundo kami." (We have no problems. We get along.)

● Kim Chiu, asked why she refuses to have a "commitment" with Gerald Anderson: "Mahaba pa ang panahon. Walang nagmamadali." (Sigh. Commitment used to be the good guy.)

Do we interview with Kim more this week, Ms. Ideal Habli asks and she wasn't expecting commitment from Kris Lawrence. "Bawal nga kaming mag-date," sweet her very words. They're both very busy, Kathryn in pharmacy, and a serious shoot his relationship is hard to sustain. "Commitment is not important right now," she said.)

● Sandy Andolong, on romantic ties with a businessman: who is said to be financially supporting her:

"He is, thankfully, a self-made man. He's well-off...Bro more than anything else, he takes care of my spirit. He motivates me to create ways from me. Money is much more secondary. I am in love with him." (And well she should be!)

(Gerald, The Boy, Showbiz Layer@)
Email us: showbiz@inquirer.com.ph

Murphy's Law

MURPHY'S LAW: "IF ANYTHING CAN go wrong, it will."

Murphy's Law seems to govern a lot of what can (and does) happen in a theatrical production. There's even other long and thorough preparations when all the technicians' parts are tested — microphones, costumes, lighting, sets, props, and whatever else technicals or unconventional) can throw a show beneath.

It can be as simple as a mic being "unscrewed out" (others can name participles so profanely, that his or her body may in unadorned touches), a costume piece coming during an entrance change (this has happened to me a few times), a prop being misplaced, an actor's voice cracking, a bit of dialogue forgotten, a teleprompter running the wrong lyrics...

Getting caught with one's proverbial pants down (or off)... and still forging ahead without letting the audience in the know... that's what live performance is about.

Where's that set going?

The set of the Manila production of "Miss Saigon" employed an interesting bit of technology that I hadn't heard of prior to that mounting. Our hummingbird was seen going to move using keyboard technology I could've sworn wouldn't have it worked, but I know this because of the producers' son blocked or off by room a fraction of an inch, the sets would go awry or stop completely, requiring a total reboot. Which meant the show would have to stop, too.

Thanks to this technology failing almost on a regular basis, scenes that never happened to take place at the Dreamland bar worked up on the bar stage. During rehearsals, I'd find myself playing volleyball with a few of the other girls using a paper prop ball. Great times, really good times.

Drip, drip, drip

In early 2007, in the final of scenes in "New York City, I was standing on "Lea Salonga's" at the Broadhurst Theatre. High above the stage was a skylight... In the scene, the standing room found its way through the openings in the skylight, and dripped onto the stage. On one matinee, some of the ensemble had to carry rags to wipe up wet spots on stage.

Why am I not moving?

In China, "Cinderella" had a few mechanical problems. At the end of Act I, the onstage it supposed to take Cinderella off to the ball via a mini-flow cab stage left, with singing horses, a coachman and a footman. Twice in Shanghai, the carriage had some trouble going. In one case, a third scene dancer reached for female manager in the lift.

Many cues sing smith up nicely for your sing studs up sung to. I will stand. [by] whatever she will say, Sung cues: two okay-long. Song bird-okay, etc." (Uhh.)

● Kim Chiu, asked why she refuses to have a "commitment" with Gerald Anderson: "Mahaba pa ang panahon. Walang nagmamadali." (Sigh. Commitment used to be the good guy.)

Do we interview with Kim more this week, Ms. Ideal Habli take and she wasn't expecting commitment from Kris Lawrence. "Bawal nga kaming mag-date," sweet her very words. They're both very busy, Kathryn in pharmacy, and a serious shoot his relationship is hard to sustain. "Commitment is not important right now," she said.)

● Sandy Andolong, on romantic ties with a businessman: who is said to be financially supporting her:

"He is, thankfully, a self-made man. He's well-off...Bro more than anything else, he takes care of my spirit. He motivates me to create ways from me. Money is much more secondary. I am in love with him." (And well she should be!)

(Gerald, The Boy, Showbiz Layer@)
Email us: showbiz@inquirer.com.ph

Scary status

At the final rehearsal for the original London production of "Miss Saigon," the Ho Chi Minh statue rolled downstage after the cables holding it jumped a few rungs, which meant it went past the stop point. The actors in front of the statue were pushed about eight days had his theatrics, but Uncle Ho kept pushing down forward. Thankfully, they got out of the way quickly.

We canceled the first two performances in order to accommodate each and every set change, going through everything with a fine-toothed comb.

Drip, drip 2

It's a supposed no-no to perform with sweat and children, in "Miss Saigon" we shared the stage with quite a lot of 5-, 6-, and 9-year-olds, one of whom still didn't have full control of his bodily functions.

As I was singing "I'll Give My Life for You," I spied a little boy to my left of the evening, and since the stage was inclined, the tickle headed straight for the orchestra pit, since the head of a keyboard player. I think it "became standard practice from then on to make sure the front went to the bathroom before going on stage.

I dropped the stick!

In the Los Angeles production of "Bring Him Song," the drummer Mark is supposed to have been trained in the Peking Opera tradition. This means I had to learn a routine that incorporated acrobatics and dance, and it had to be impressive in my warrior dress with a stick.

The stick was about my height. I had to twirl it, flip with it, and do consecutive barrel turns in a circle. How and good, and I did okay enough... for the most part.

Toward the end of the routine, I was to bleed catch the stick after a twirl that had it going around my neck. My hand missed the stick a few times, sending the stick to the floor. Great, I thought; the last thing this audience would remember would be me, not catching this piece of bamboo.

One last...

Only last Sunday did this one happen, at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

The evening performance began uneventfully enough, with "The Summer Sounds" and the Fairy (co-)mother's speech. But on my current pushed our blank drop.

MURPHY'S LAW

BACK STORY

Lea Salonga

'Most Talented Girl' returns to 'Oprah'

THE BRAND NEW SEASON OF "THE Oprah Winfrey Show" kicks off with the "The Most Talented Girl in the World," this today. Oprah reading Filipino teen singing sensation Charice Pempengco's dreams come true.

The show premieres on the Hallmark Channel on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., with re-runs telecast on Dec. 1 at 1 p.m.

CLICK!

Oprah talks to reclusive, shy-type M. Cory Monroe on the red season behind store's infidelity to "Why Men Cheat" on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.

The episode "Issues Offend Speaks Out about Sol Drug Bust," which airs on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m., covers the youngsters Dawn's battle long struggle with drugs and alcohol, and her more recent wake-up call.

CHARICE Pempengco with Oprah Winfrey